



# WELCOME

Bryan

February 11, 2015

"Boast of Bryan Is A&M College"

"Marlin Mighty In Men And Minerals"

"Navasota Need Not Blush"

"Hempstead Has Heavy Harvest"

*Meridian Road in Texas, 1916 Travel Guide*

HARDY·HECK·MOORE INC

Historic Preservation Planning & Management



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*real places telling real stories*



# What is the Project?

## Project Background

- Sponsors



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*



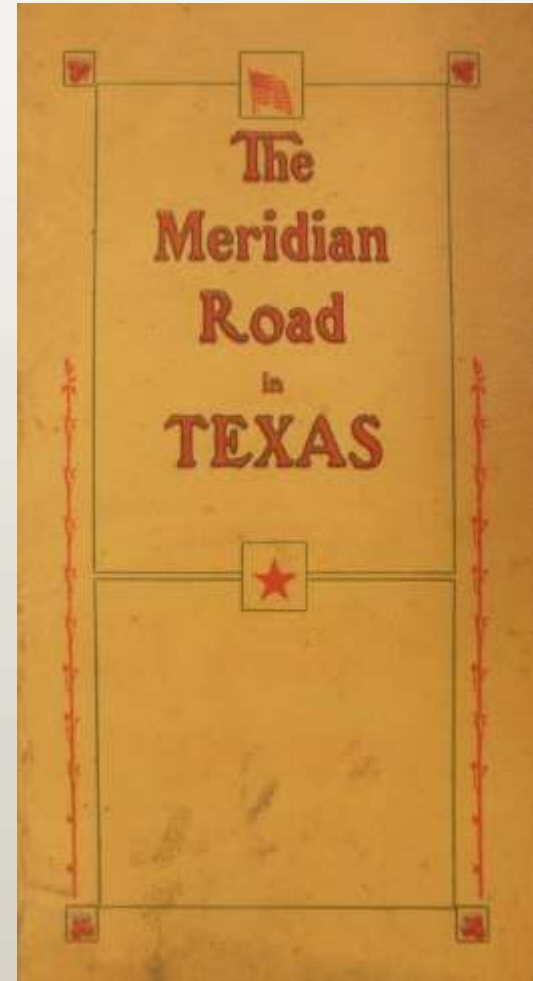
U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**



# What is the Project?

## Project Goals

- Work Products
  - Report
  - Web-Based Content
  - Images
  - Research Materials



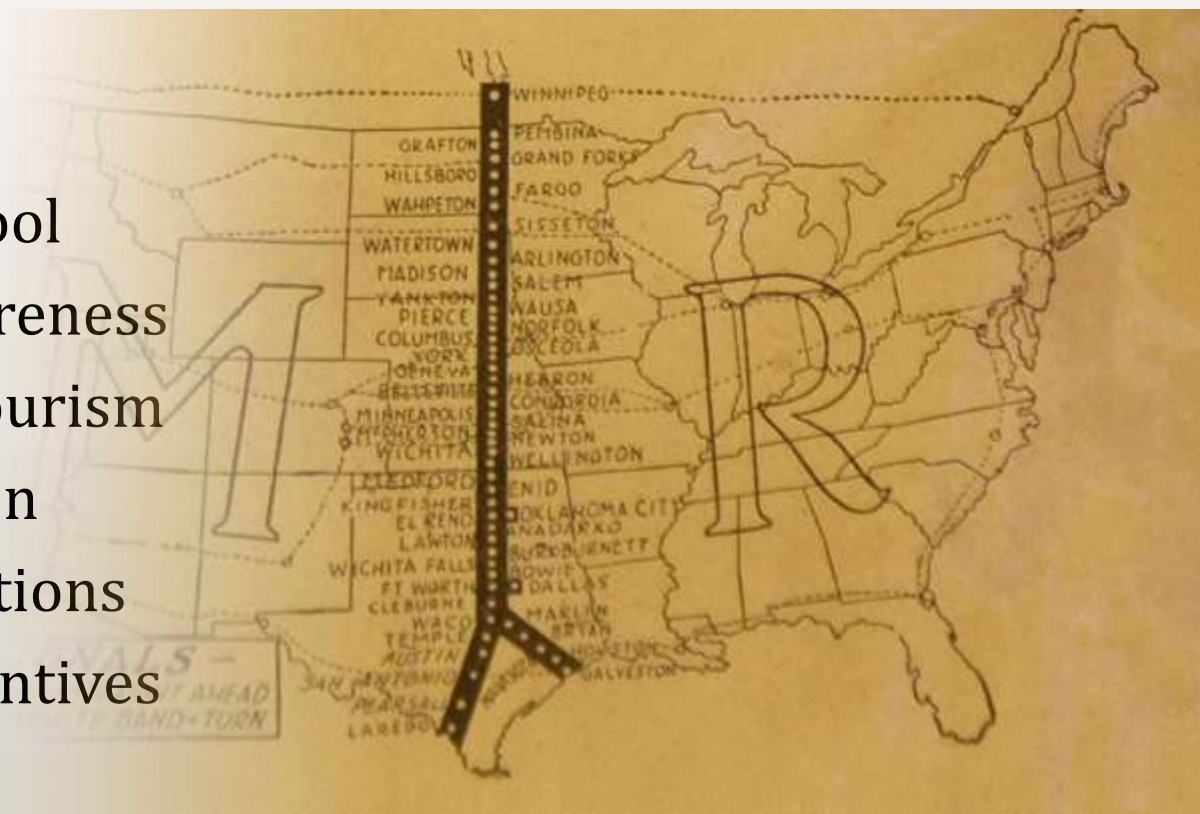
Source: CAH



# What is the Project?

## Project Goals

- Applications
  - Planning Tool
  - Public Awareness
  - Heritage Tourism
  - Preservation
    - Designations
    - Tax Incentives



Source: CAH

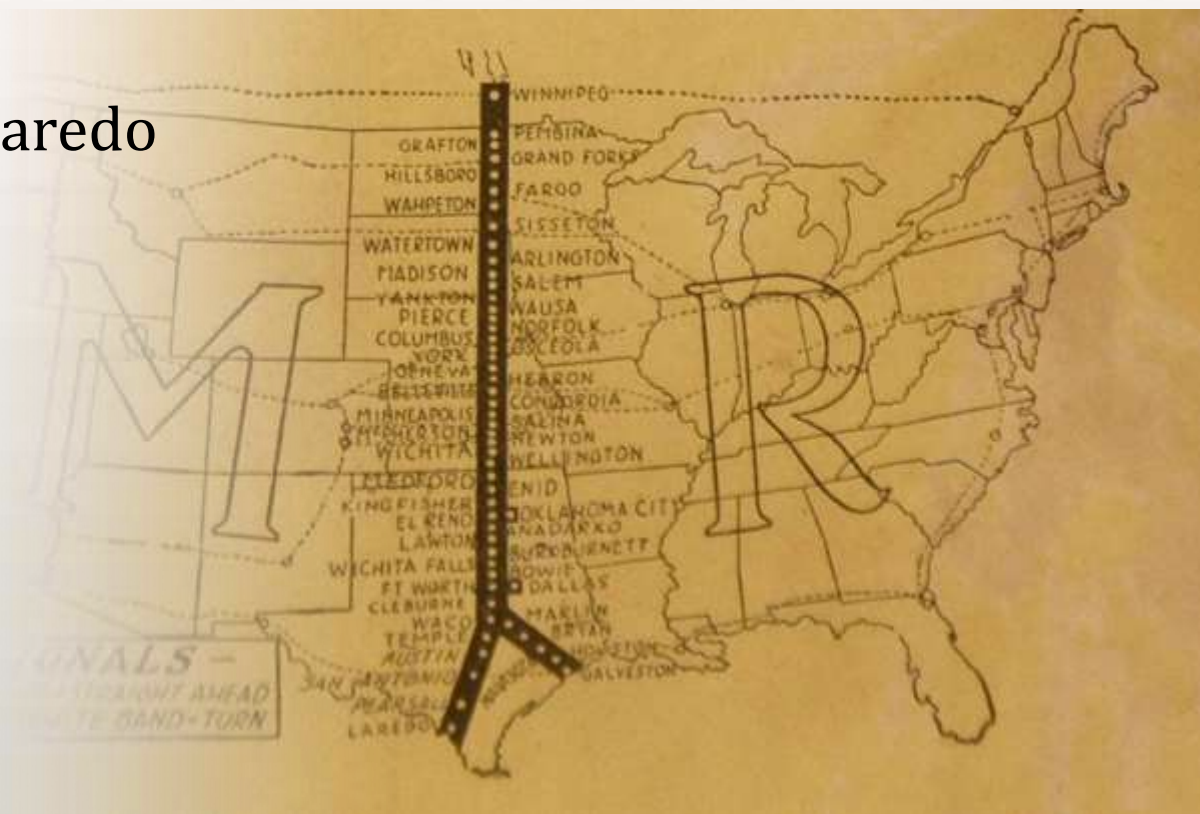




# What is the Project?

## Project Path

- Oklahoma to Laredo and Galveston



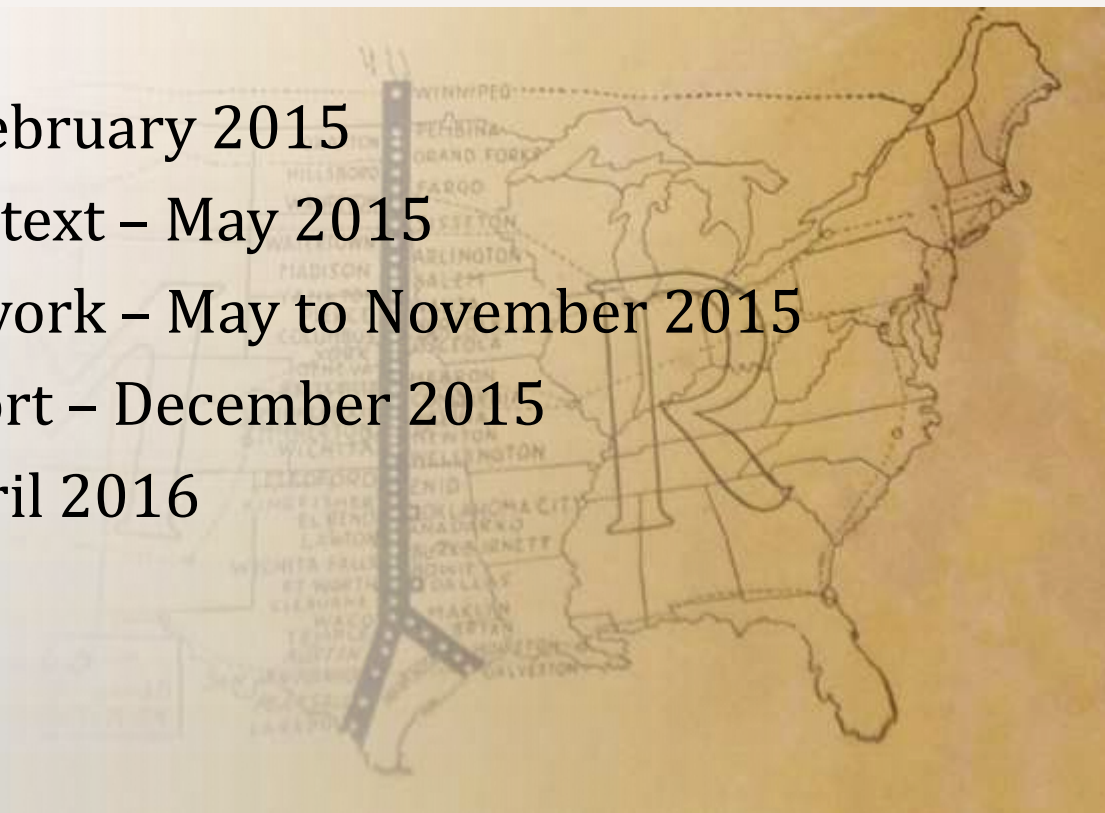
Source: CAH



# What is the Project?

## Project Schedule

- Presentations – February 2015
- Draft Historic Context – May 2015
- Survey and Fieldwork – May to November 2015
- Draft Survey Report – December 2015
- Final Report – April 2016



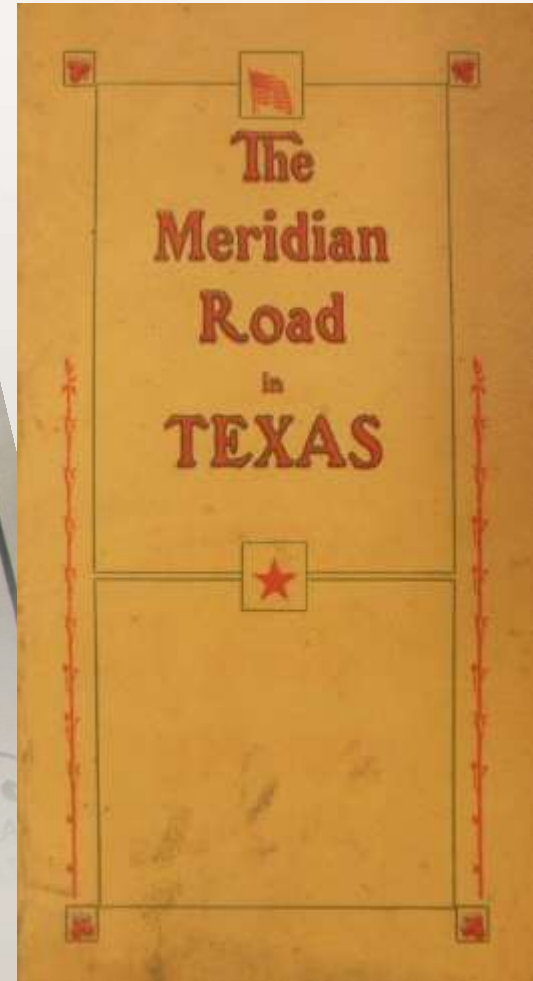
Source: CAH



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- Meridian Road (1911)



Sources: HCM&A and CAH





# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- Meridian Highway / International Meridian Highway (1913)



Source: StMU



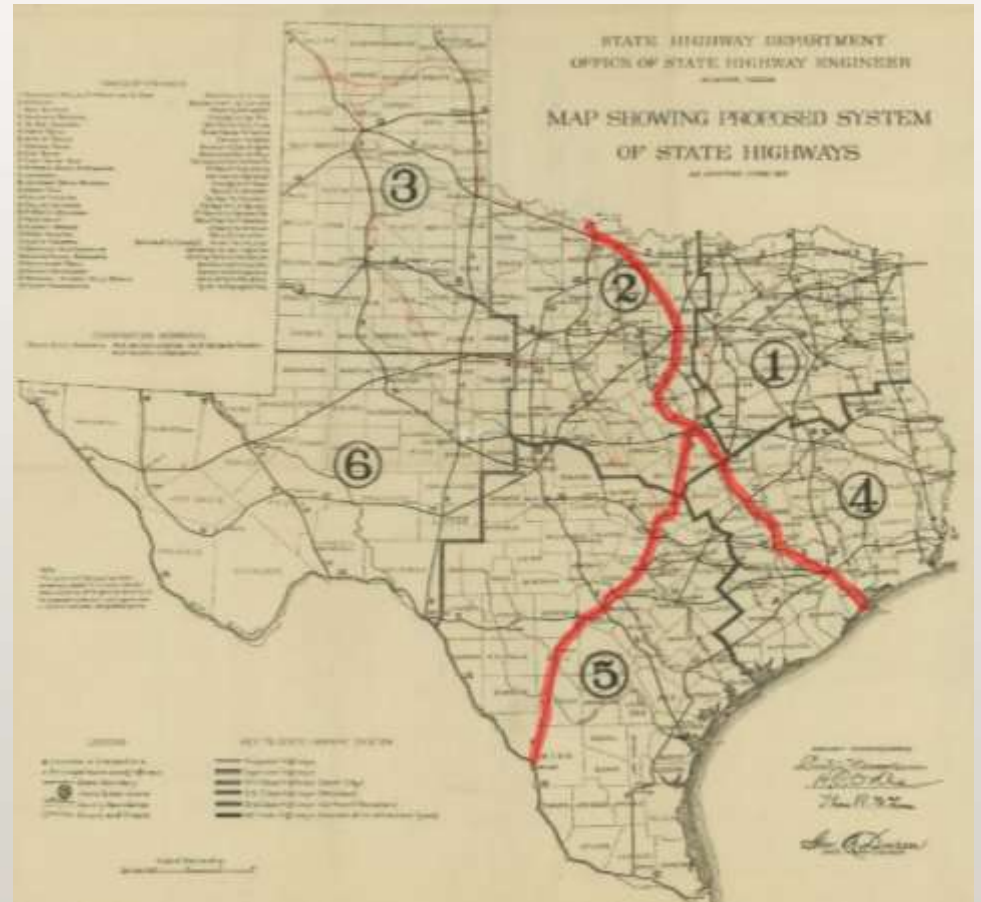
Source: CAH



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- State Highway No. 2 (1917)



Source: TSLAC





# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- US 81 (1926)
- Ringgold to Laredo



Source: TSLAC



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- SH6 (1926)
- Waco to Galveston



Source: TSLAC



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- SH 6 (Waco to Hempstead [Houston])
- US 277 (Red River to Wichita Falls)
- US 287 (Wichita Falls to Bowie)
- SH 95 (Temple to Elgin)
- US 290 (Hempstead to Houston)
- US 75 (Houston to Galveston)





# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- IH 44 (Red River to Wichita Falls)
- IH 35W (Fort Worth to Hillsboro)
- IH 35 (Hillsboro to Laredo)
- IH 45 (Houston to Galveston)

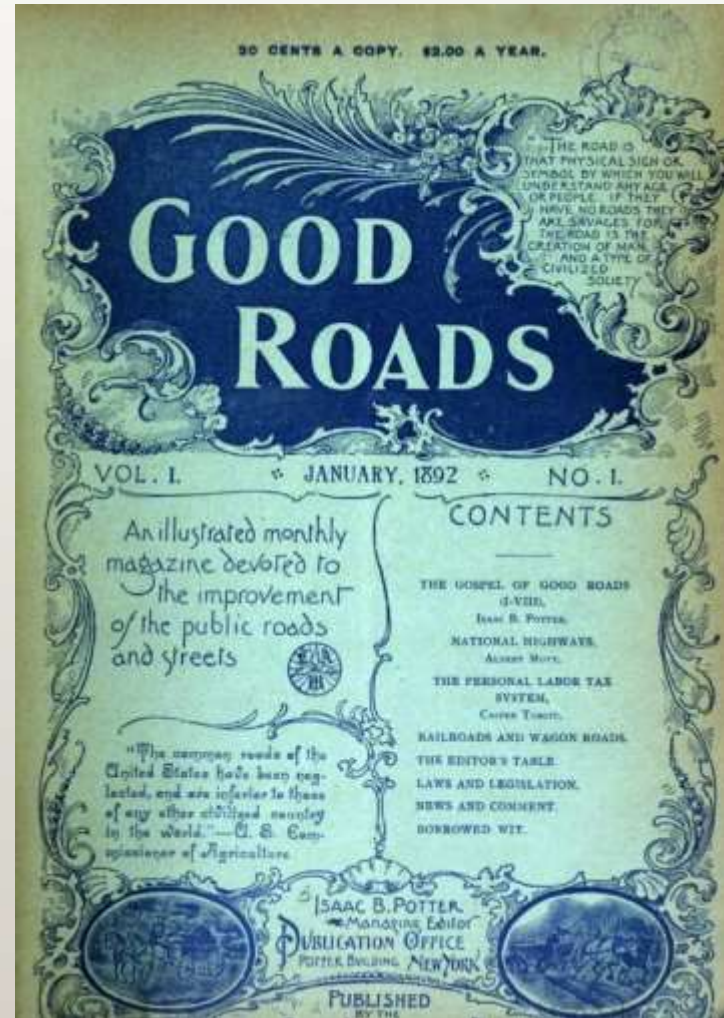






# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement



Source: Google Books



# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement

- Bicycling



Unknown location in Texas. Source: PTH



# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement

- Road Conditions



Unknown location in Texas. Source: PTH



# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement

- Muddy Roads



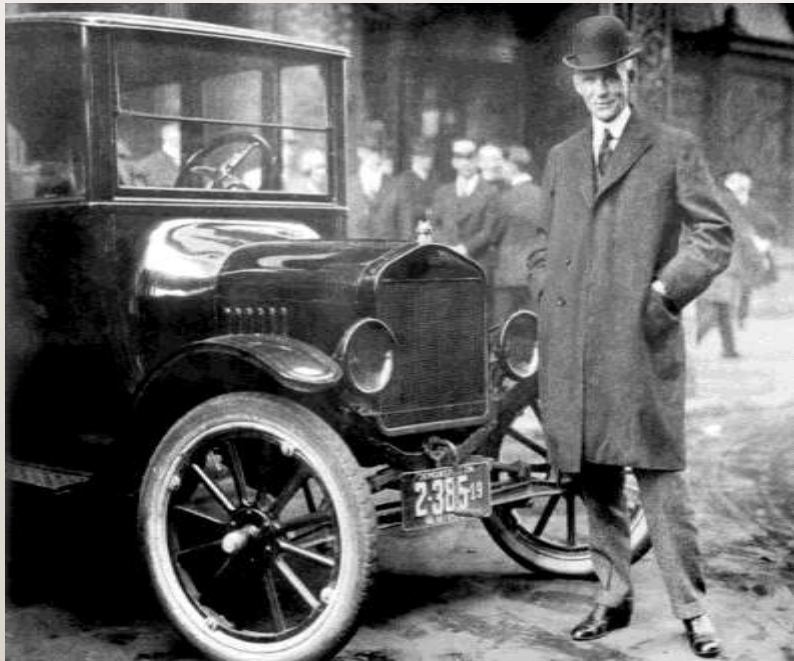
Falls County, Texas. Source: TxDOT



# Historical Influences

## Rising Popularity of Automobile

- Introduction of Model T (1908)



Source: THF



Source: THF





# Historical Influences

## New Freedom and Opportunities

- The “Vagabonds”



Source: THF



Source: THF





## Historical Influences

### New Freedom and Opportunities

- Tourism for a Growing Middle Class



Source: TOT



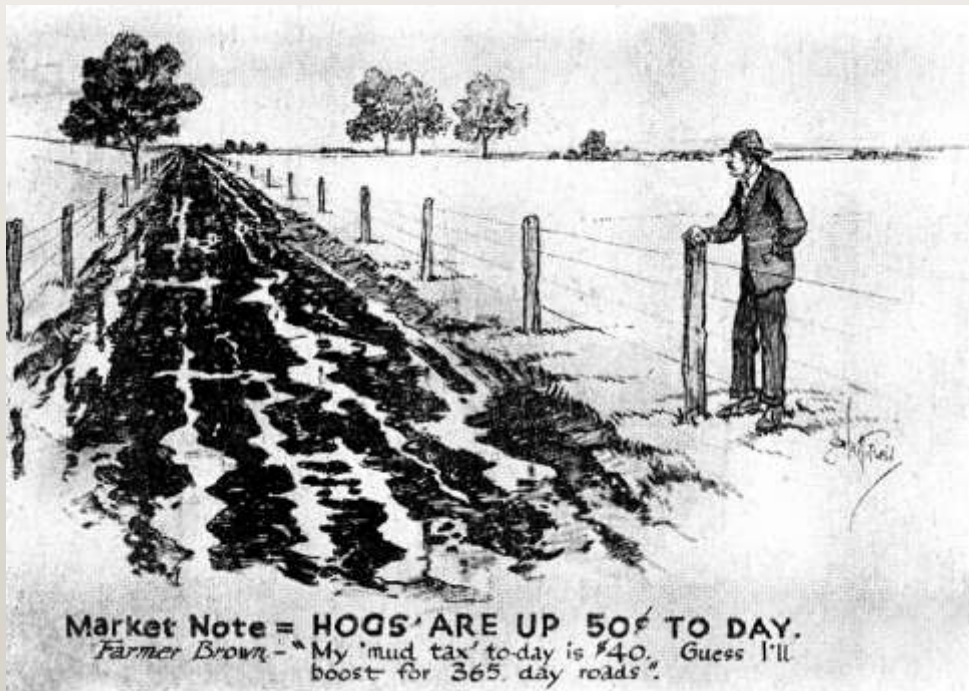
Source: TWC



# Historical Influences

## New Freedom and Opportunities

- Commerce and Trade



Source: KHS



Source: THF



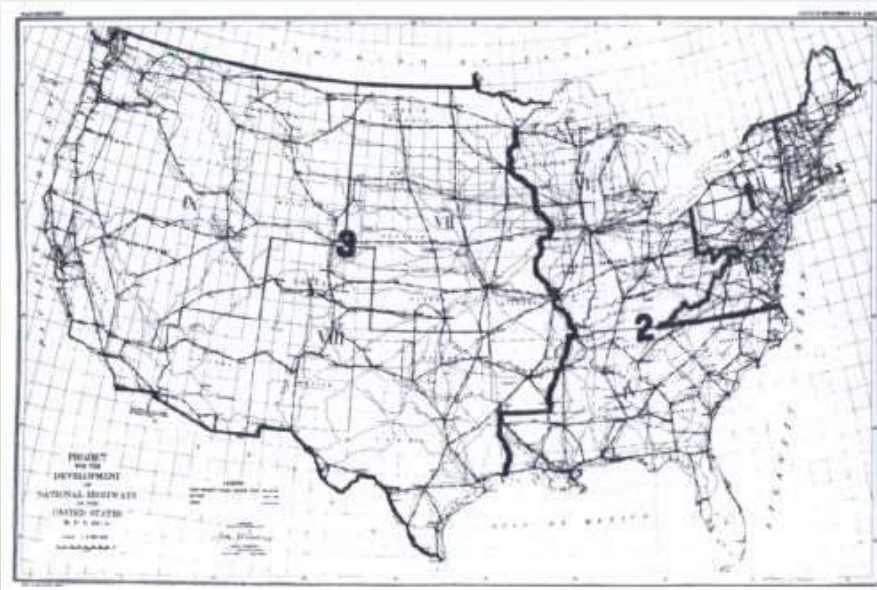
Source: PTH





# Historical Influences

## Military Significance



Source: FHWA



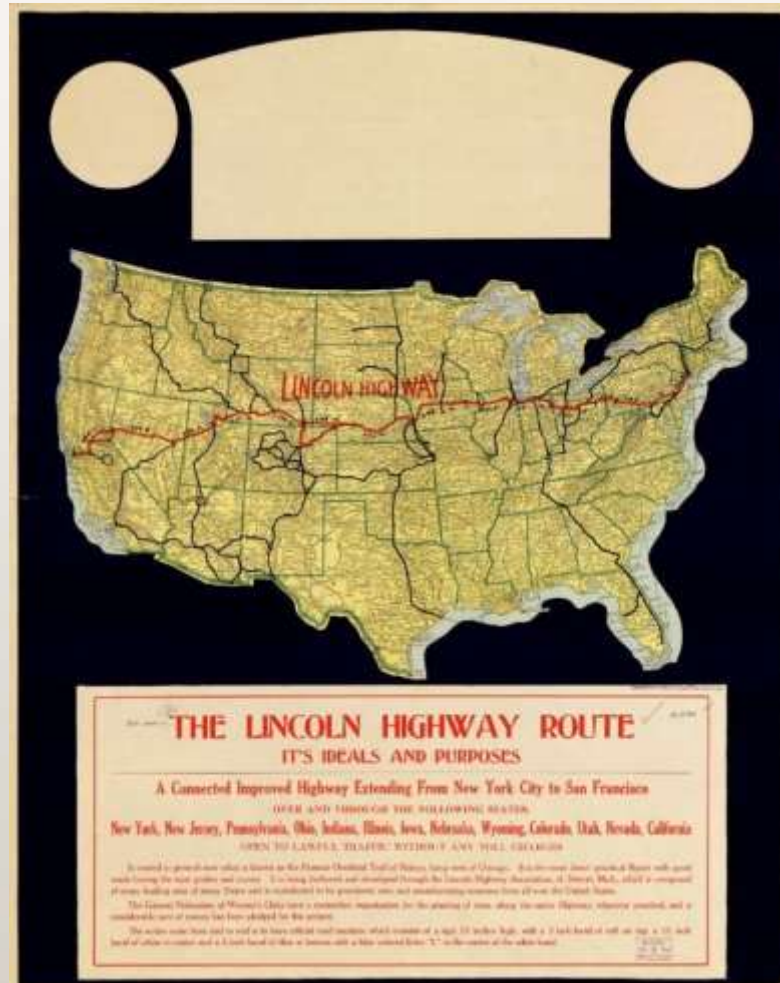
Source: PTH



# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- Lincoln Highway



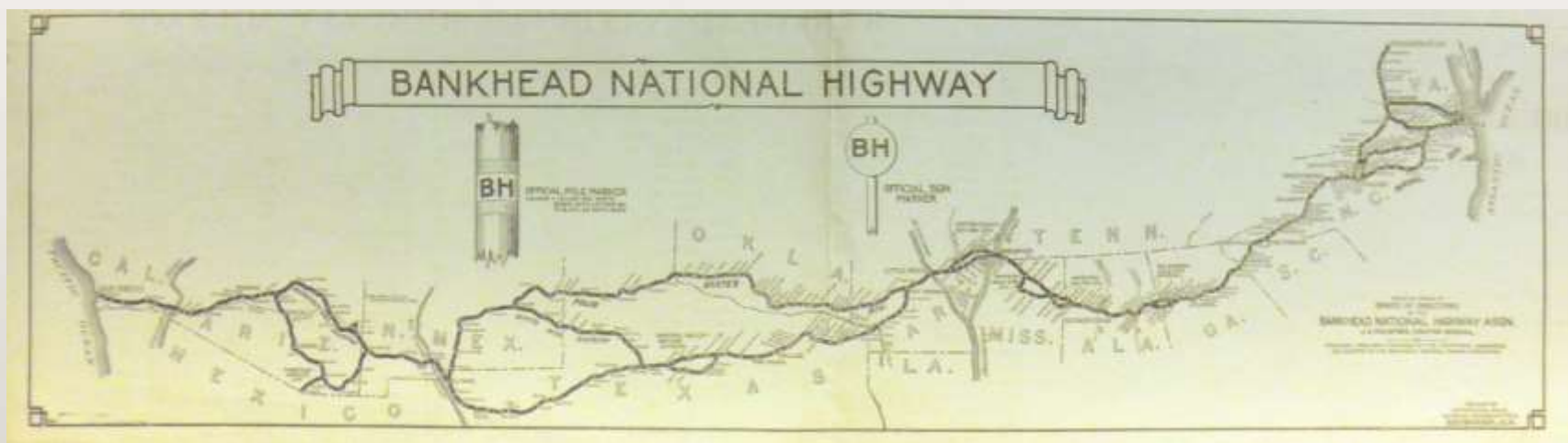
Source: LHNM&A



# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- Bankhead Highway



Source: BiPL

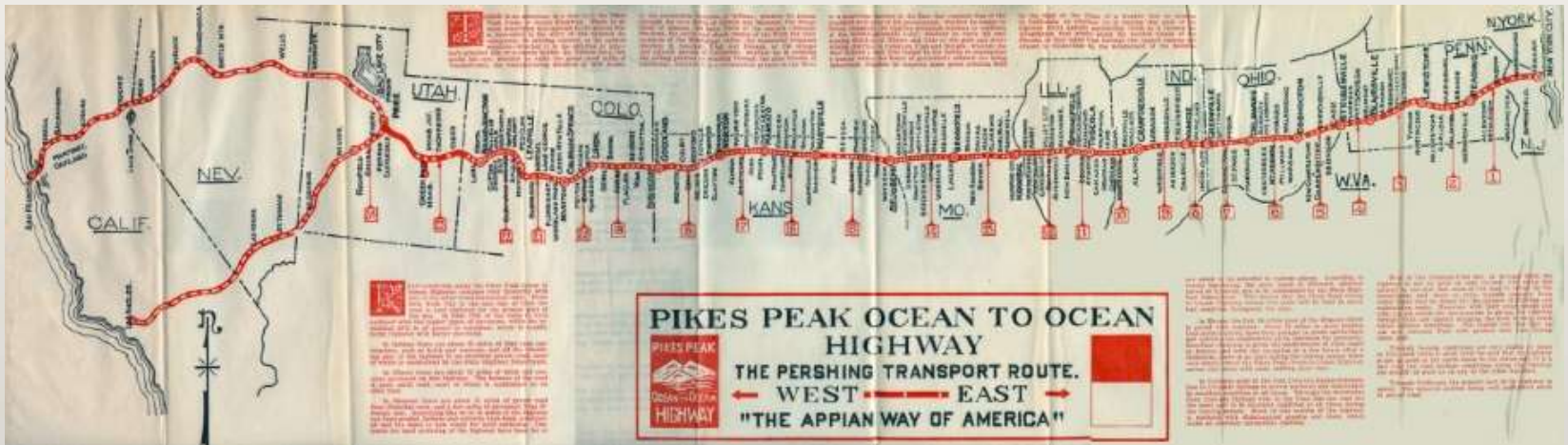




# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway



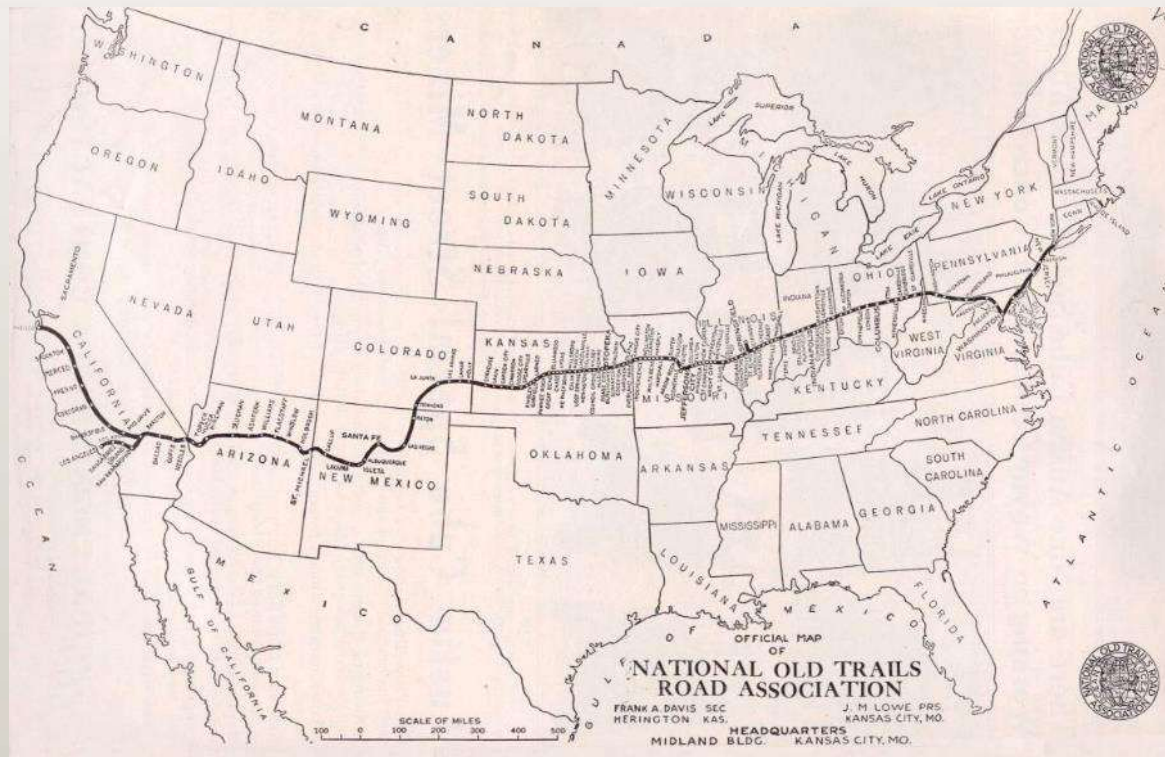
Source: PP00



# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- National Old Trails



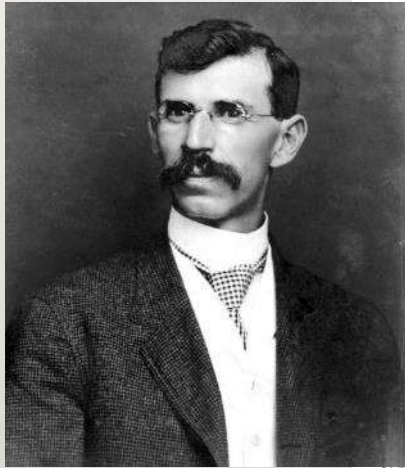
Source: FHWA



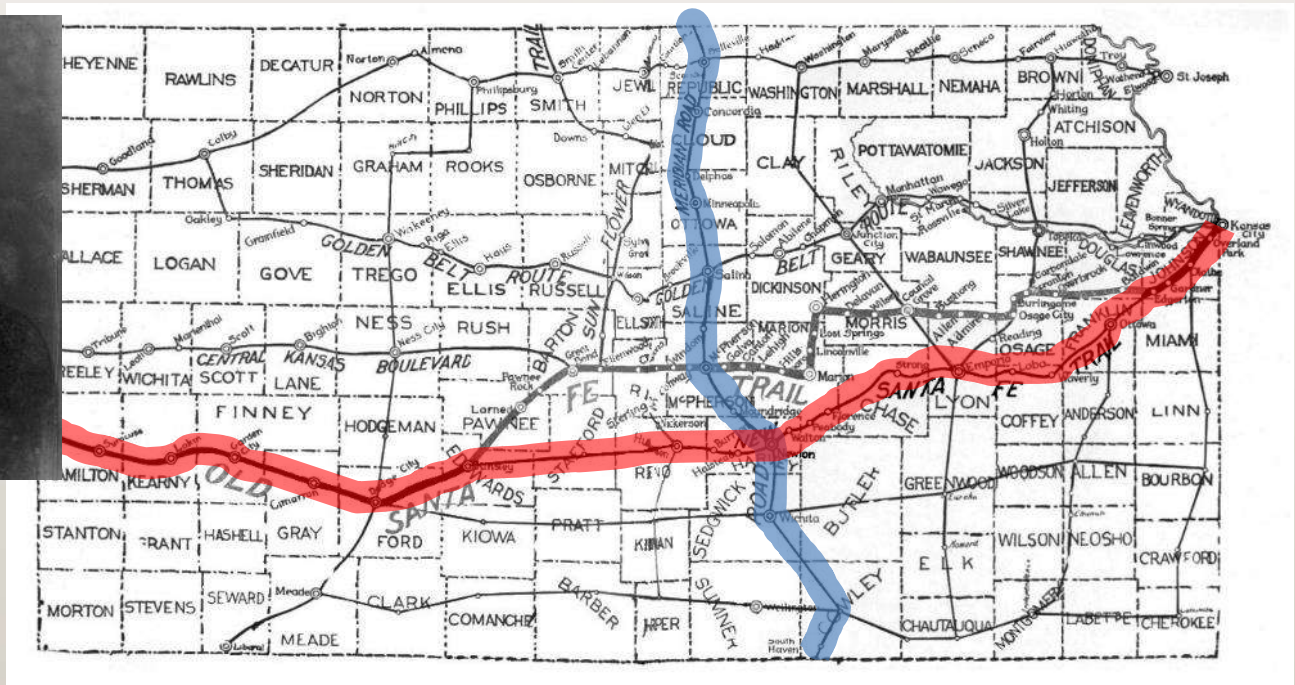
# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Organization and Early Years

- Founded 1911
- John C. Nicholson of Newton, Kansas



Source: KSH



Source: KSH





# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Established Routes

- Chisholm Trail
- Santa Fe Trail



Source: UNO

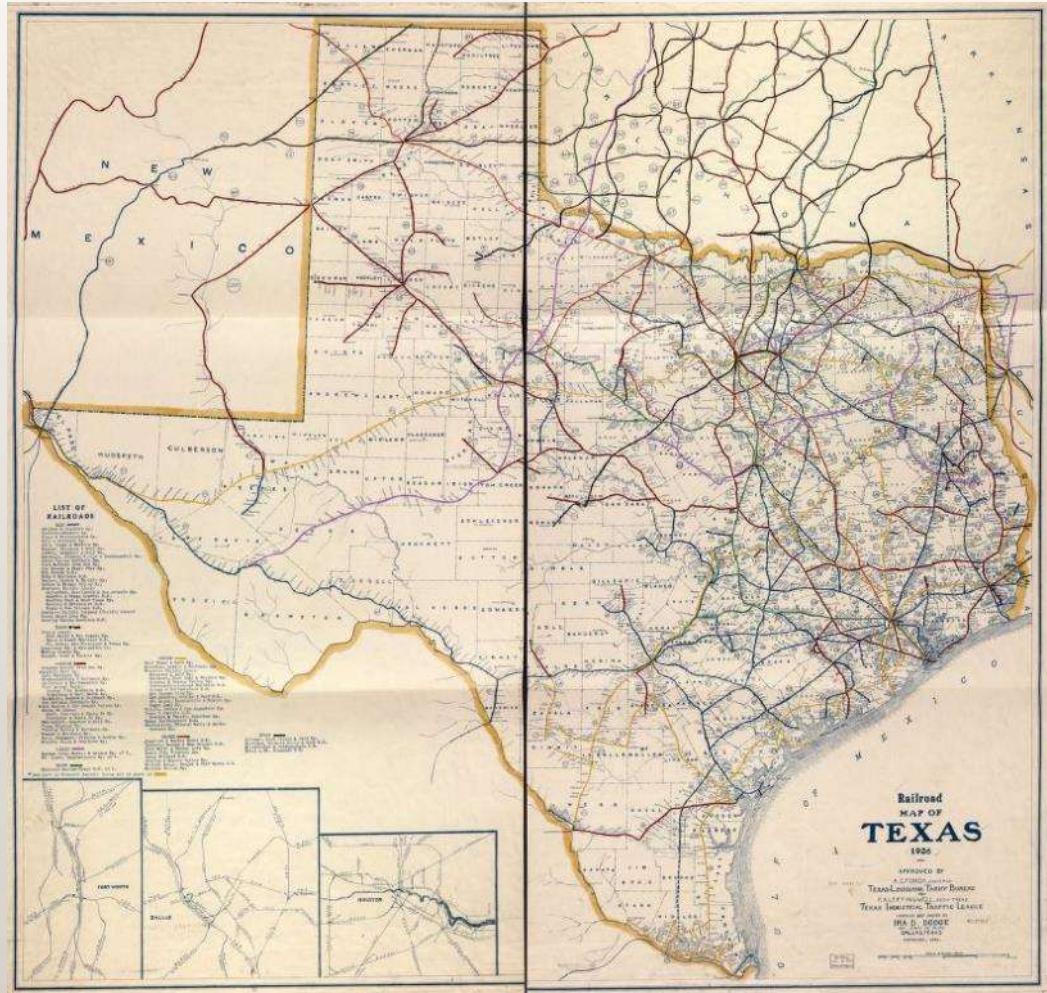




# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Established Routes

- Railroad Network
  - MKT
  - IGN
  - H&TC
  - FW&DC



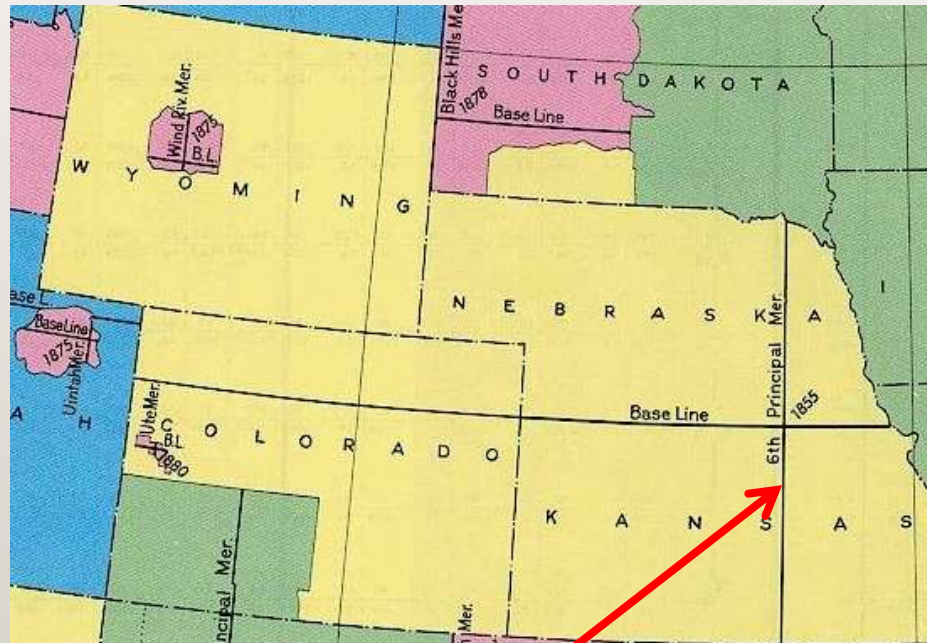
Source: LOC



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Origin of the Name

- Named for Sixth Principal Meridian



Source: BLM

### Sixth Principal Meridian

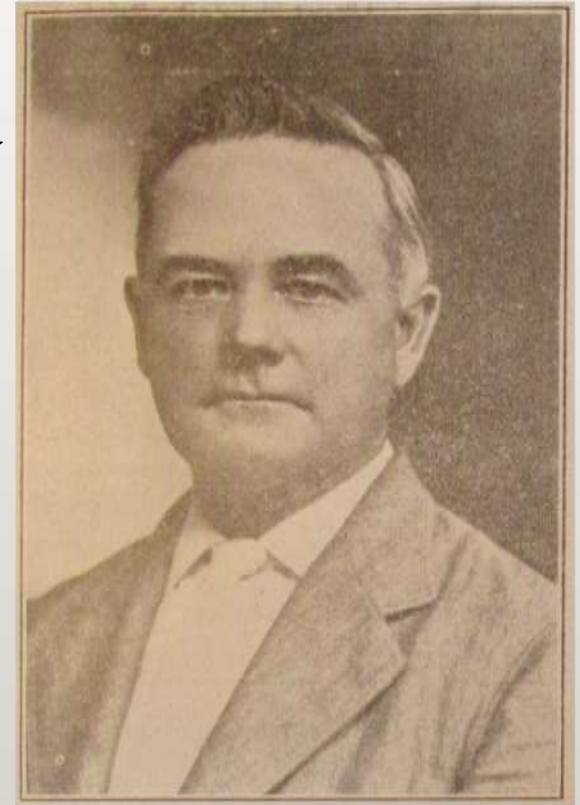
Adopted 1855. Governing Surveys - Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Initial Point - Latitude 40-00-07, Longitude 97-22-08



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## The Meridian Highway in Texas

- David E. Colp
  - Texas Division of Meridian Highway
  - Texas Good Roads Association
  - Texas Highway Commission
  - Old Spanish Trail
  - Glacier to Gulf Highway
  - State Parks Board



Source: CAH

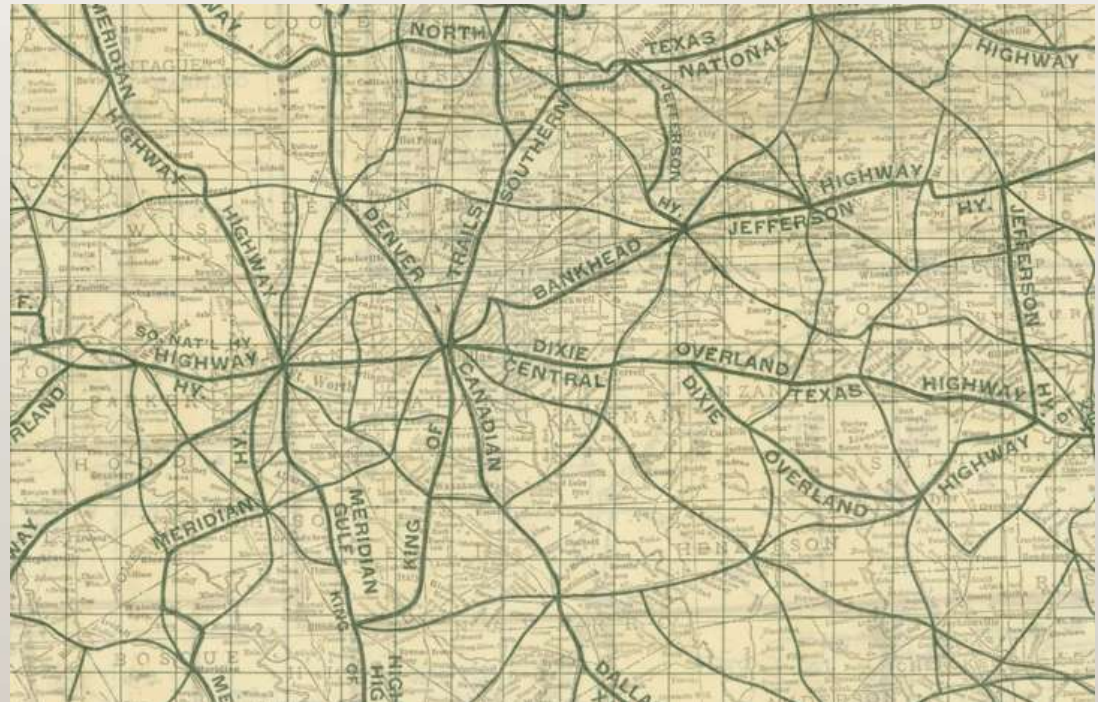




# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Organization and Early History

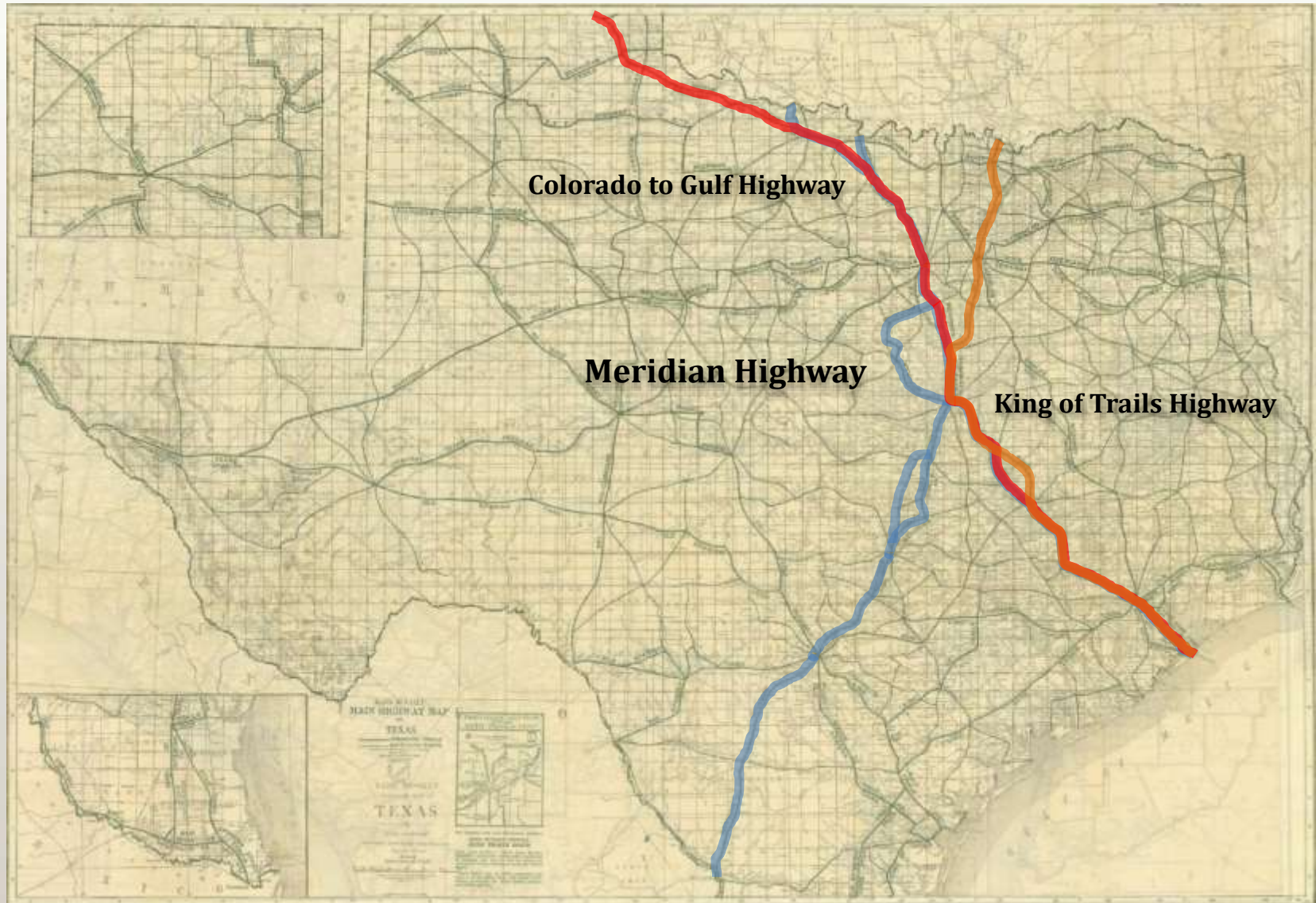
- Importance of Route and Shared History
  - Gulf to Colorado
  - King of Trails





# MERIDIAN HIGHWAY

U.S. 81 THROUGHOUT

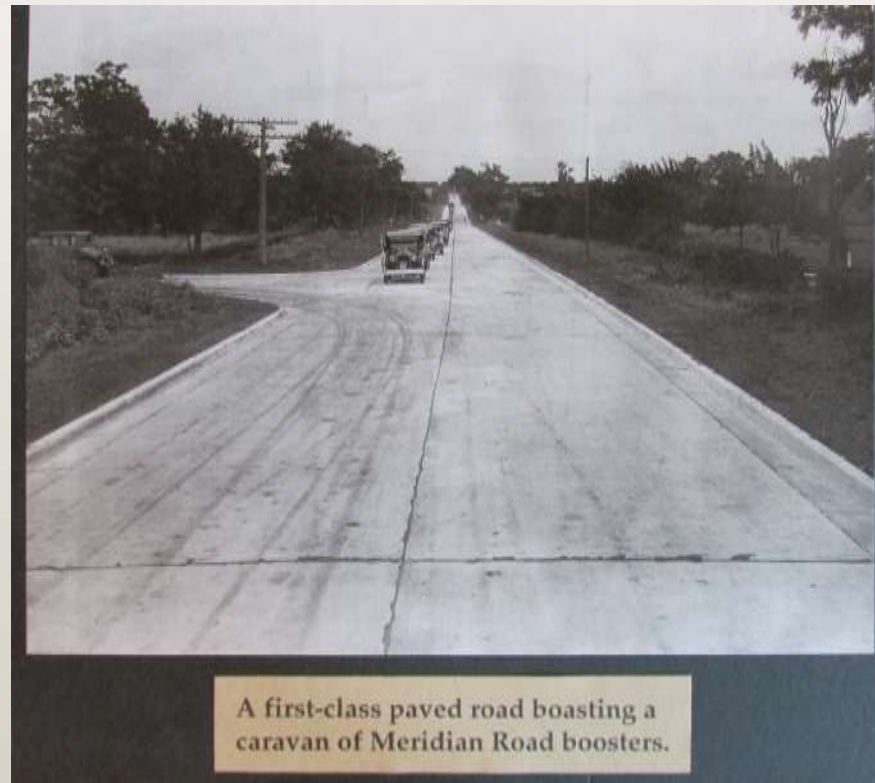




# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Path Finders and Caravans



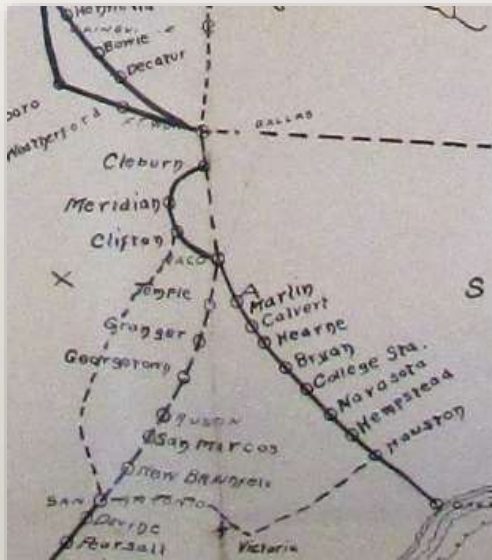
Unknown location. Source: HCM&A



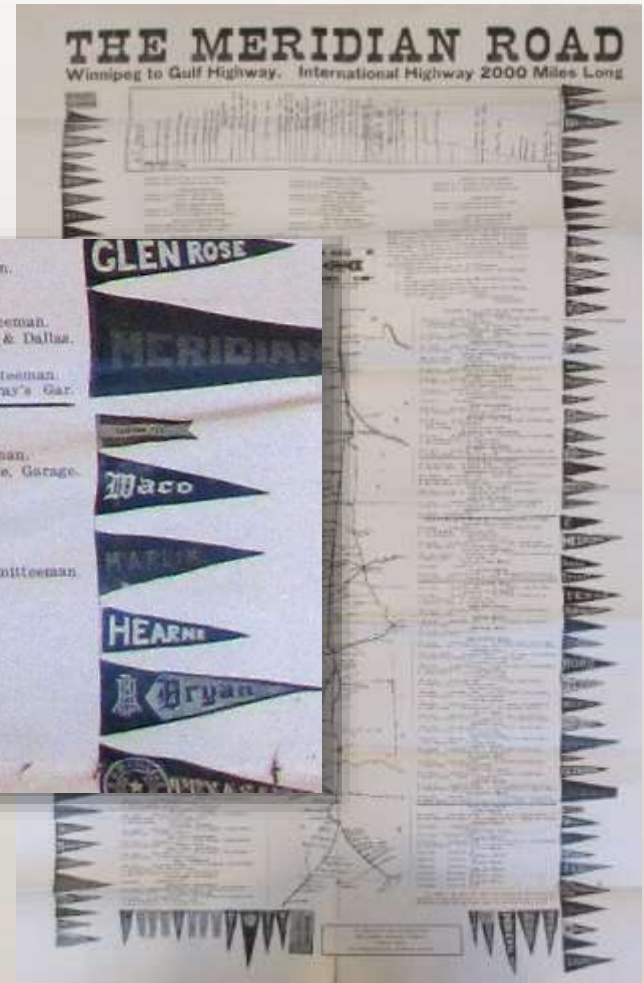
# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Banners



<b>HEMPSTEAD, TEXAS</b>		
1804 miles.	Population, 2,000.	L. D. Ameler, Committeeman.
a—A. C. T. Hotel.	a—W. J. Edwards & Co.	
<b>HOUSTON, TEXAS</b>		
1856 miles.	Population, 75,000.	G. W. Hawkins, Committeeman.
a—Bender Hotel, Main and Walker.	a—Hawkins-Hall Gar., Main & Dallas.	
<b>GALVESTON, TEXAS</b>		
1908 miles.	Population, 35,981.	C. H. McMaisters, Committeeman.
a—Hotel Galves.	b—Tremont Hotel.	a—Galves Garage. b—Gray's Gar.
<b>WACO TO LAREDO</b>		
<b>WACO, TEXAS</b>		
1635 miles.	Population, 26,425.	W. W. Selby, Committeeman.
a—New State House Hotel.	J. C. Kilgore & Co.	Austin Ave. Garage.
<b>TEMPLE, TEXAS</b>		
1688 miles.	Population, 10,593.	
<b>GEORGETOWN, TEXAS</b>		
1740 miles.	Population, 2,090.	
<b>AUSTIN, TEXAS</b>		
1768 miles.	Population, 29,860.	H. M. Thomson, Jr., Committeeman.
a—Drescoll Hotel.	a—Anderson & Benson Garage.	
<b>LYTLE, TEXAS</b>		
1873 miles.	Population, 100.	
<b>PEARSALL, TEXAS</b>		
1903 miles.	Population, 1,793.	
<b>DILLEY, TEXAS</b>		
1919 miles.	Population—	
<b>COTULLA, TEXAS</b>		
1935 miles.	Population, 1,880.	
<b>ARTESIA, TEXAS</b>		
1949 miles.	Population, 100.	
<b>LAREDO, TEXAS</b>		
2002 miles.	Population, 14,500.	



Source: HCM&A





# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Banners



Fort Worth Texas. Source: HCM&A







# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Meridian Road Magazine



Source: HCM&A

MERIDIAN ROAD OFFICIAL GARAGES			
Winnipeg	City	Winnipeg	{ The Queens Hotel
Pembina	C. G.	Pembina	{ McLaren Hotel
Grand Forks	Sims	Hotel Pembina	{ Hotel Dacotah
Hillsboro	Murph	Grand Forks	{ Frederiek Hotel
Fargo	Who	Hillsboro	Weston Hotel
Wahpeton	G. B.	Fargo	{ Gardner Hotel
Sisseton	Cottin	Wahpeton	{ Hotel Annex
White Rock	The D	Sisseton	{ City Hotel
Watertown	Wol	Watertown	{ Merchants Hotel
Arlington	Han	White Rock	La Grande Hotel
Madison	Merid	Sisseton	Commercial Hotel
Salem	Johns	Watertown	{ The Kampeska Hotel
Bridgewater	Reiser	Madison	{ Lincoln Hotel
Yankton	L. L.	Salem	Lake Park Hotel
Wausa	Sam I	Bridgewater	Lewis Hotel
Pierce	Idon	Yankton	Hotel Dewey
Norfolk	E. G.	Wausa	Portland Hotel
Madison	Schmi	Pierce	Midway Hotel
Platte Center	Platte	Norfolk	Pacific Hotel
Columbus	John	Madison	Prince Hotel
Osceola	Osceol	Platte Centre	Clothier Hotel
Stromsburg	Strom	Columbus	The Evans Hotel
York	York	Stromsburg	Park Hotel
Fairmont	Brown	Fairmont	Le Grande Hotel
Geneva	Menki	Geneva	Clarendon Hotel
Merid	Merid	Hebron	Jameson Hotel
Belleville	Merid	Belleville	Central Hotel
Concordia	Gage	Concordia	{ Hotel Republic
Minneapolis	Gage	Minneapolis	{ Yankee Inn
Salina	Ollir	Salina	Parkers House
Lindsborg	Salin	Lindsborg	{ New Clayton Hotel
McPherson	Klas	McPherson	{ National Hotel
Mound Ridge	Nort	Newton	Brunswick Hotel
Newton	C. G. I	McPherson	New Merchants Hotel
Wichita	New	Mound Ridge	St. Clair Hotel
Wellington	Ken	Newton	{ Fred Harvey Hotel
Caldwell	Wic	Wellington	{ Murphy Hotel
	Ron	Caldwell	{ Antlers Hotel
	Fett	Medford	{ Harvey Eating House
	Beyer	Pond Creek	Dad's Cafe
		Enid	Commercial Hotel
			Clem Hotel
			{ Oxford Hotel
			{ American Hotel

## MERIDIAN ROAD OFFICIAL HOTELS

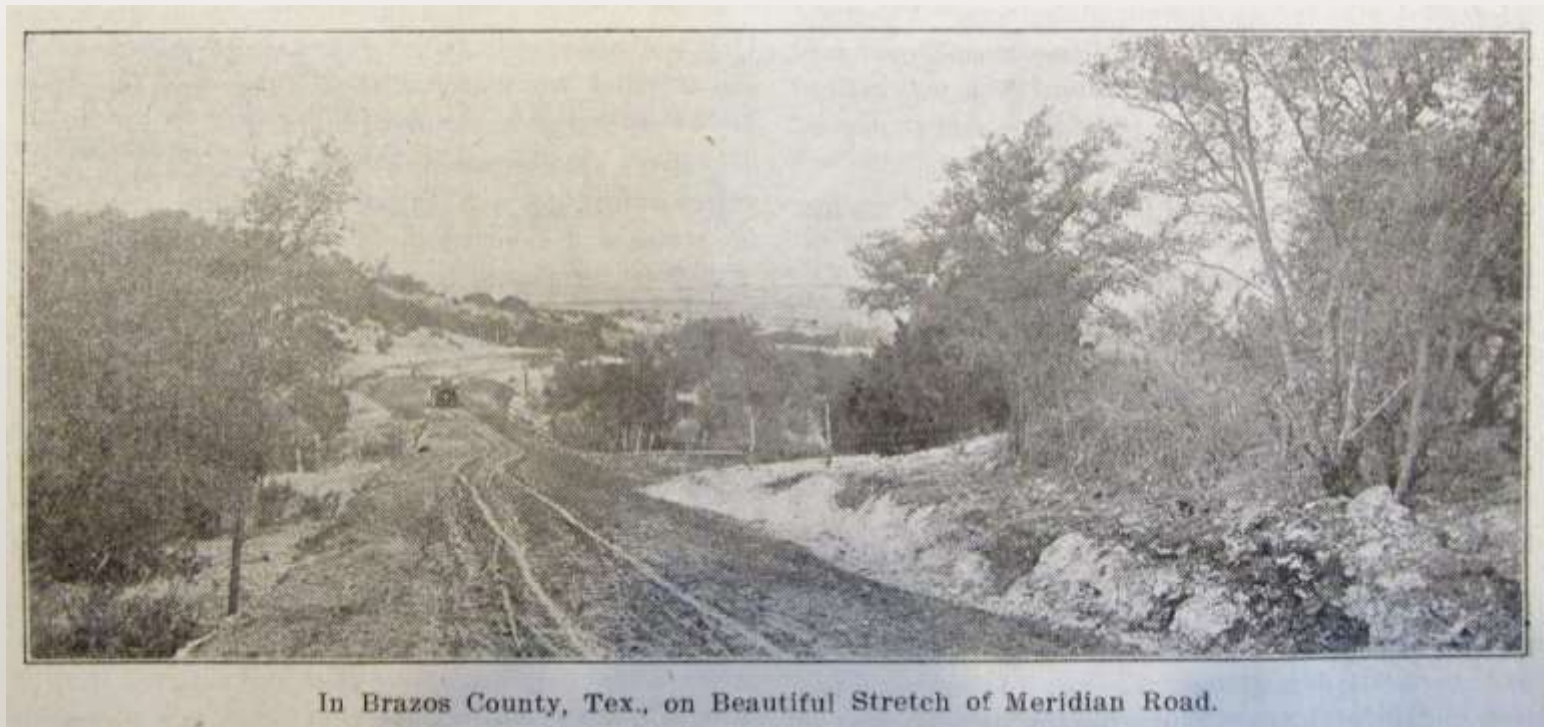
Kingfisher	Hockaday Hotel
El Reno	{ Southern Hotel
	{ Anstine Hotel
Wichita	{ Hamilton Hotel
	{ Eaton Hotel
Mulvane	New Union Hotel
Winfield	Bretton Hotel
Genda Springs	Loomis Hotel
Arkansas City	Fifth Ave. Hotel
Newkirk	Kentucky Home Hotel
Poneca City	Arcade Hotel
Perry	St. Louis Hotel
Guthrie	{ Tone Hotel
	{ Royal Hotel
Oklahoma City	{ Lee-Hockins Hotel
	{ Skirvin Hotel
El Reno	Southern Hotel
Chickasha	The Early Hotel
	{ Bryan Hotel
Anadarko	{ Royal Hotel
Apache	Blackwell Hotel
Lawton	Midland Hotel
Wichita Falls	{ St. James Hotel
	{ Westland Hotel
Jacksboro	Jacksboro Hotel
Ft. Worth	{ Westbrook Hotel
	{ Metropolitan Hotel
Henrietta	St. Elmo Hotel
Bowie	Burns House
Decatur	International Hotel
Dallas	Adolphus & Southland
Cleburne	{ New Hotel Raymond
	{ Hotel Cleburne
Glenrose	Campbell Hotel
Meridian	Emerson Hotel
Clifton	Nelson House
Waco	New State House
Marlin	Majestic Hotel
Hearme	The Oriental Hotel
Bryan	Hotel Bryan
Navasota	Camp Hotel
Hempstead	A. C. T. Hotel
Houston	Bonder Hotel
Galveston	{ Hotel Galves
Austin	{ Tremont Hotel
	Dressell Hotel



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Caravans and Tours



Brazos County, Texas. Source: HCM&A



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters



Vicinity of Navasota, Texas. Source: PPLD



College Station, Texas. Source: PPLD

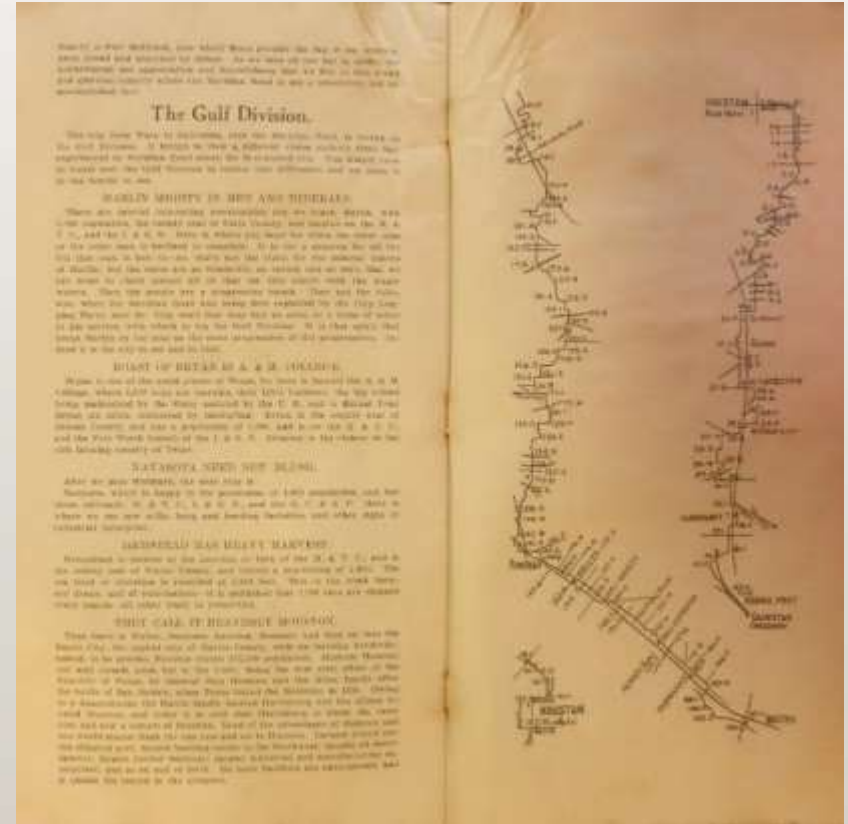
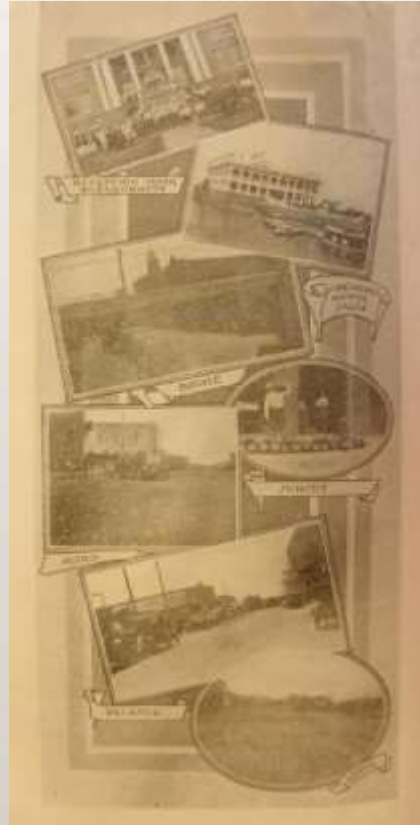
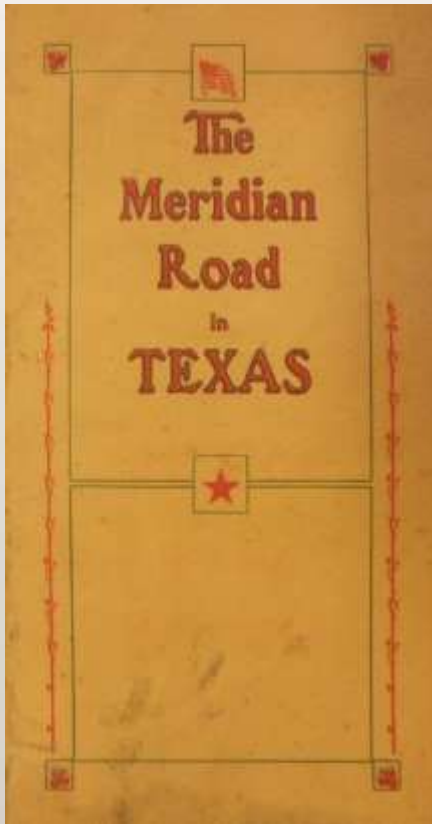




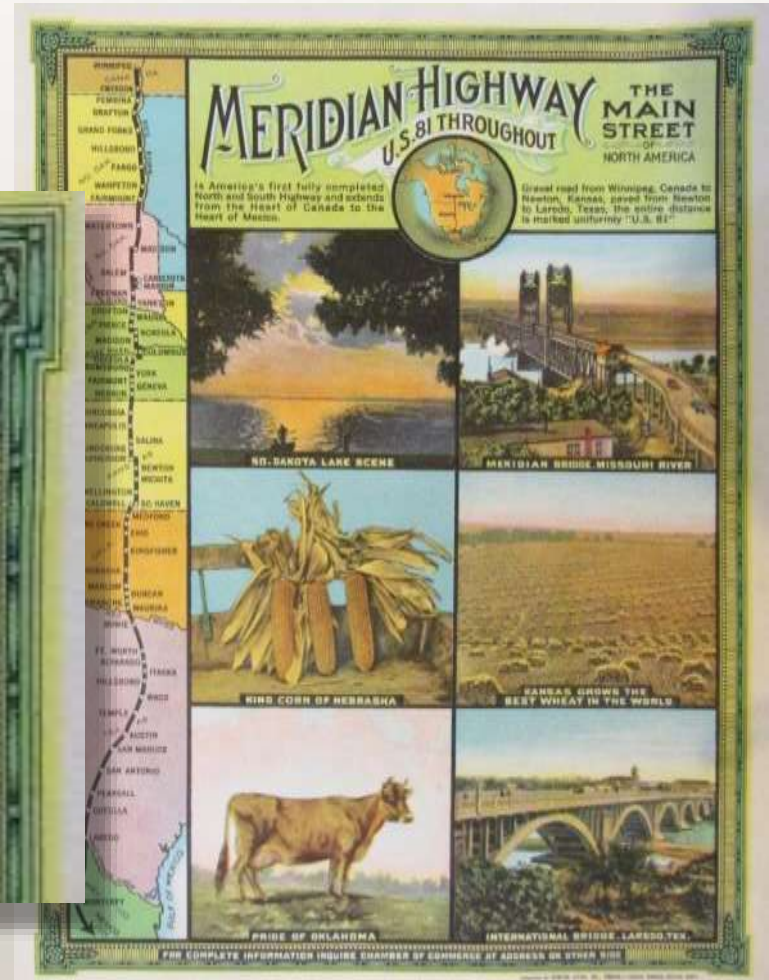
# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- The Meridian Road In Texas (1916)





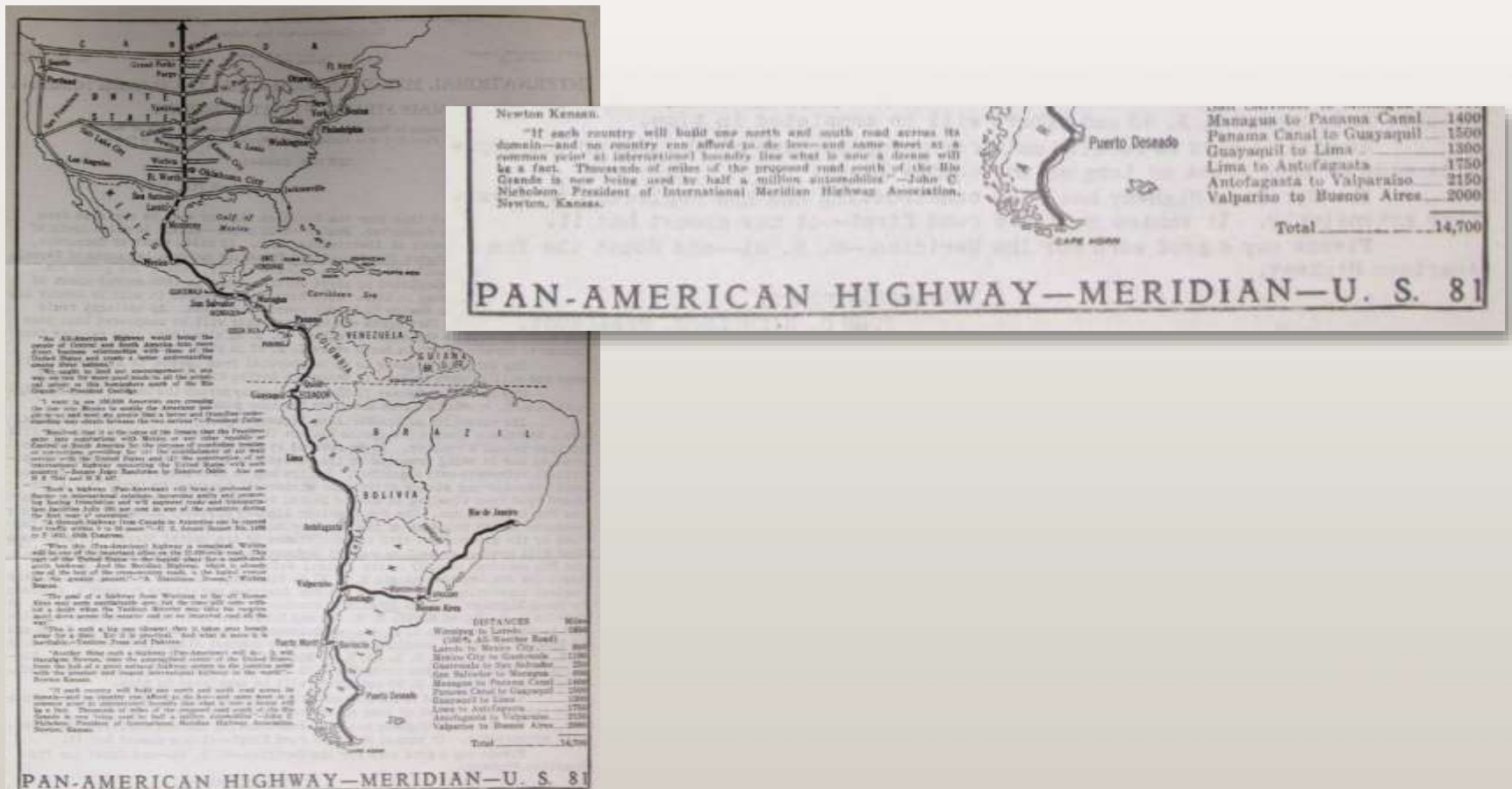


41



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

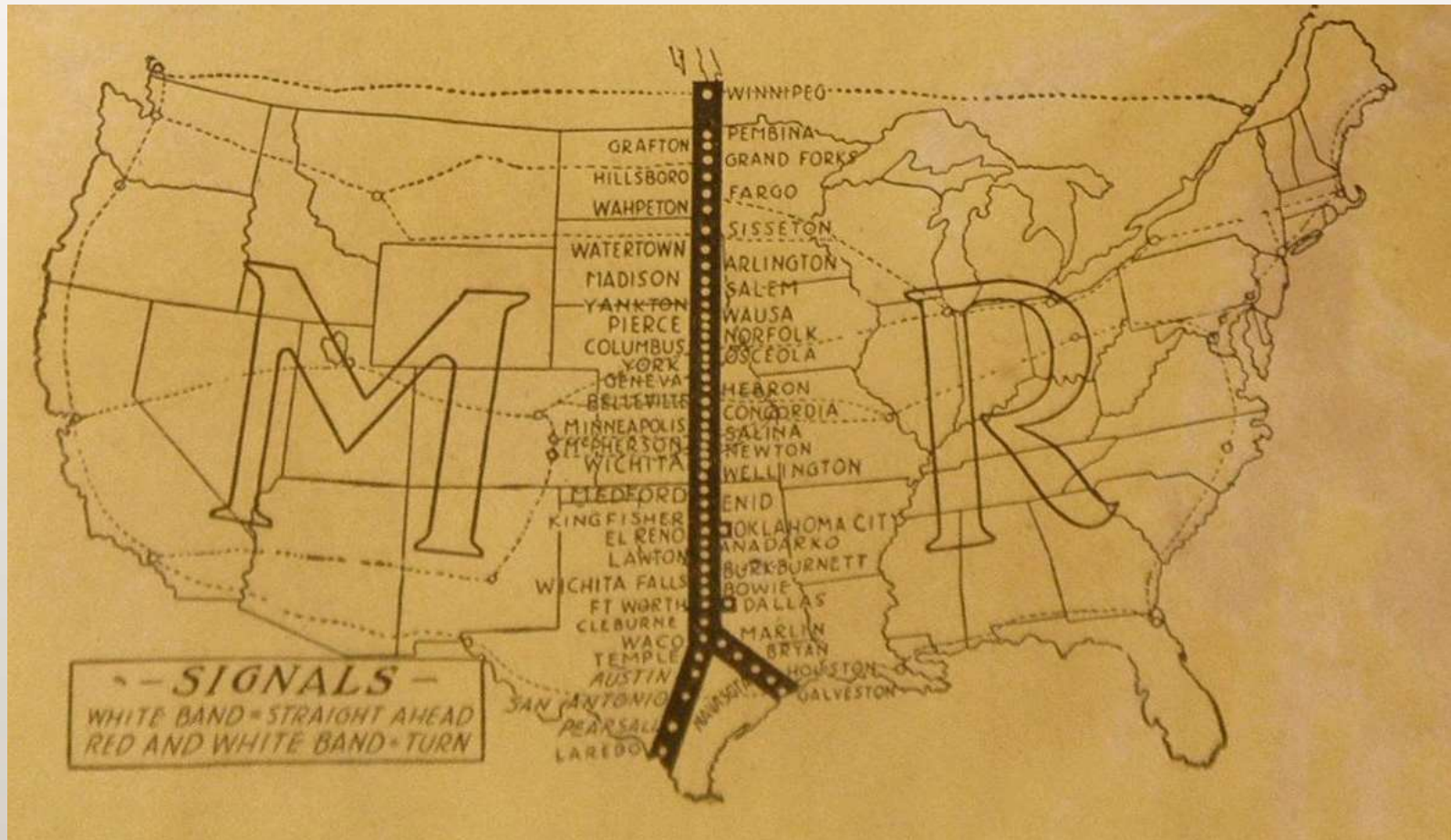
## Brochures and Pamphlets





# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## The Meridian Road as an Idea

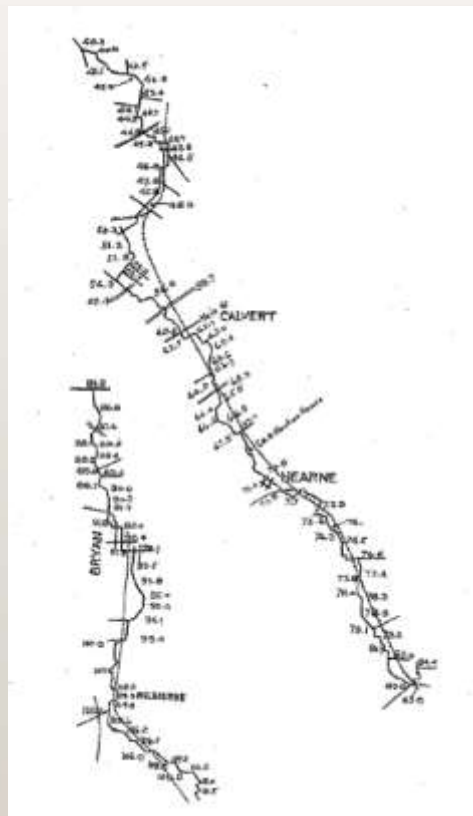




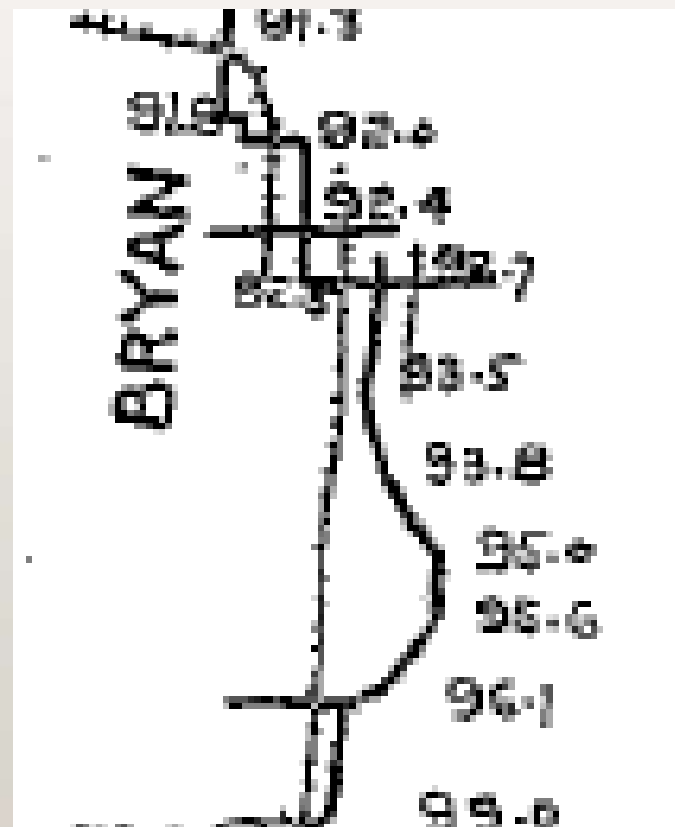


# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Early Maps



Source: CAH



Source: CAH



# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Texas Highway Commission Maps

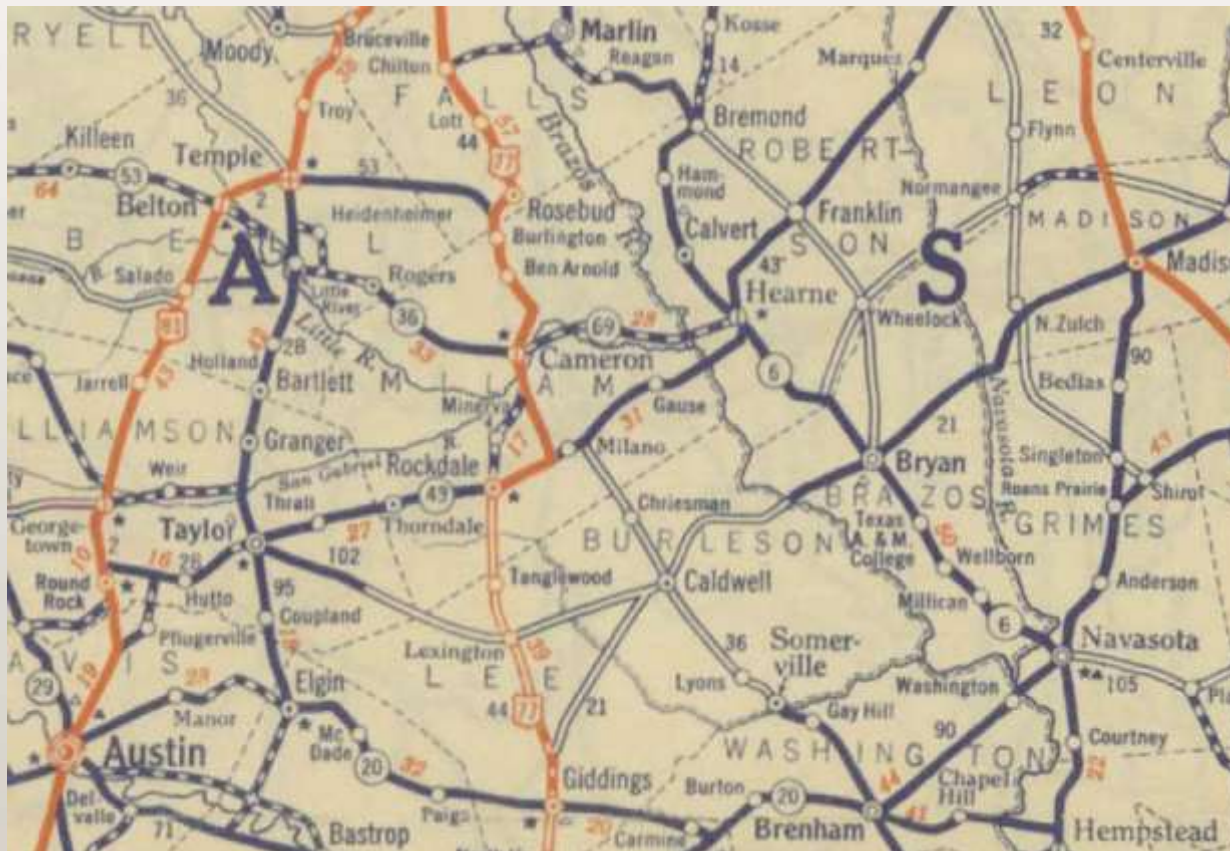


Source: TSLAC



# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Federal Highway Maps



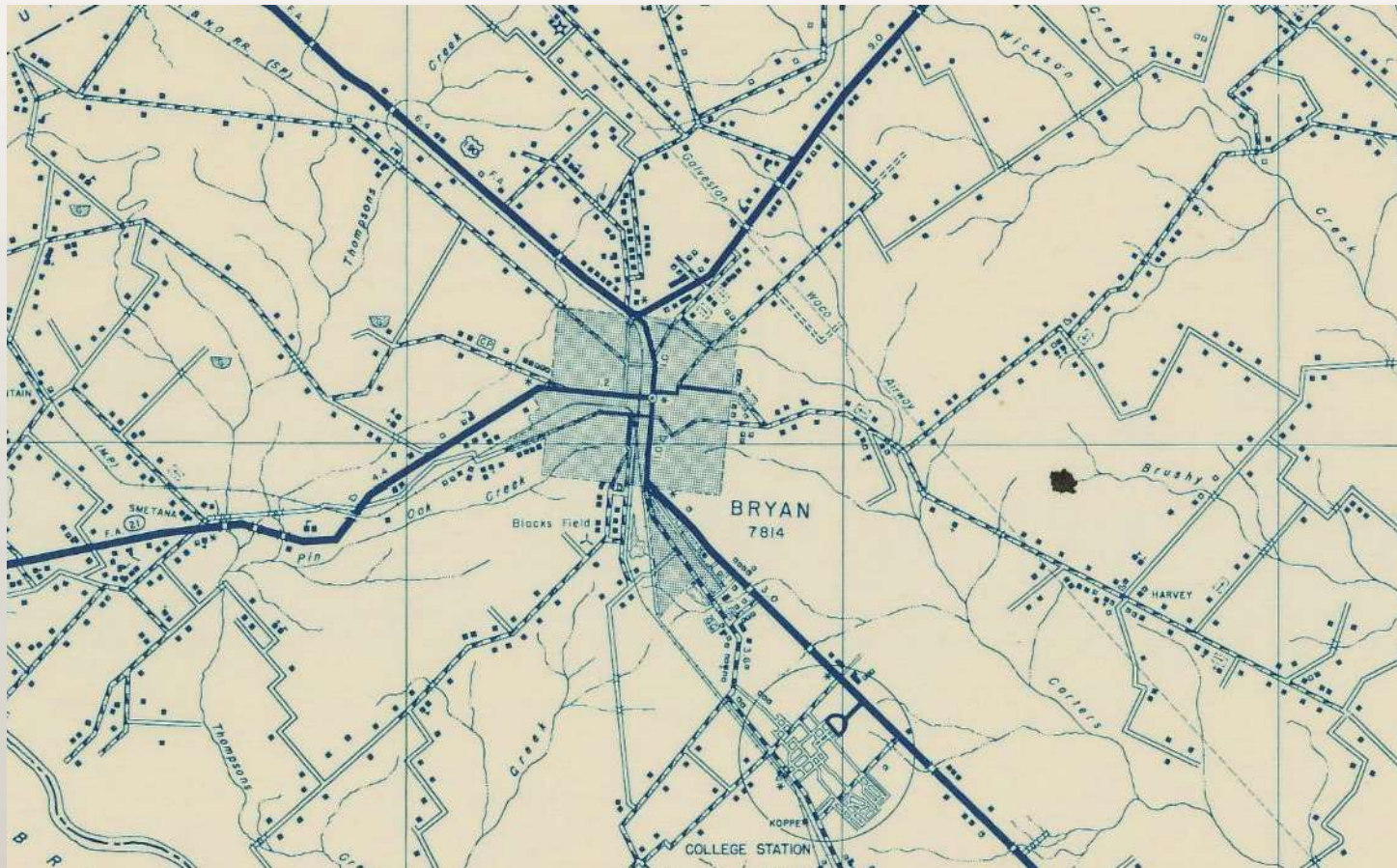
Source: TSLAC





# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Texas Highway Department – County Highway Maps



Source: TSLAC



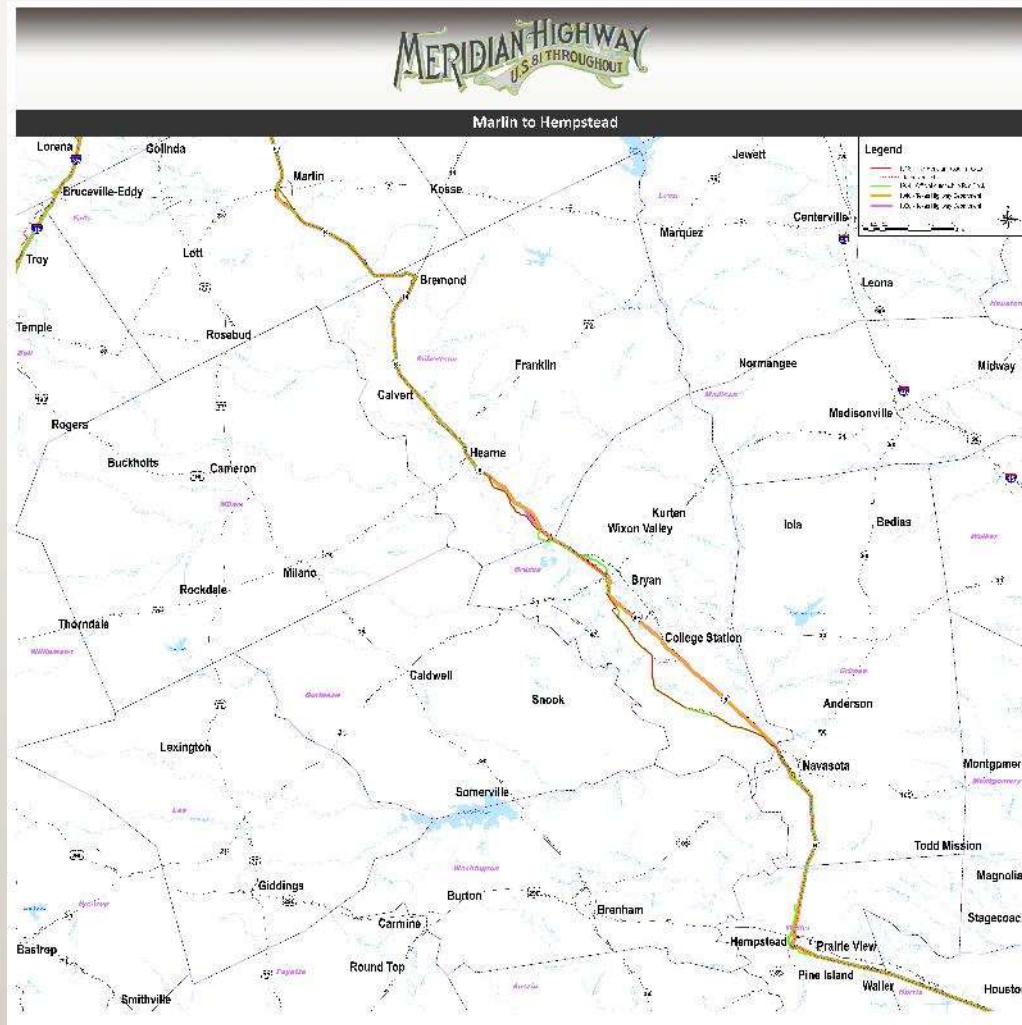
# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Composite Map Showing Alignments Over Time





# The Meridian Highway in the Area



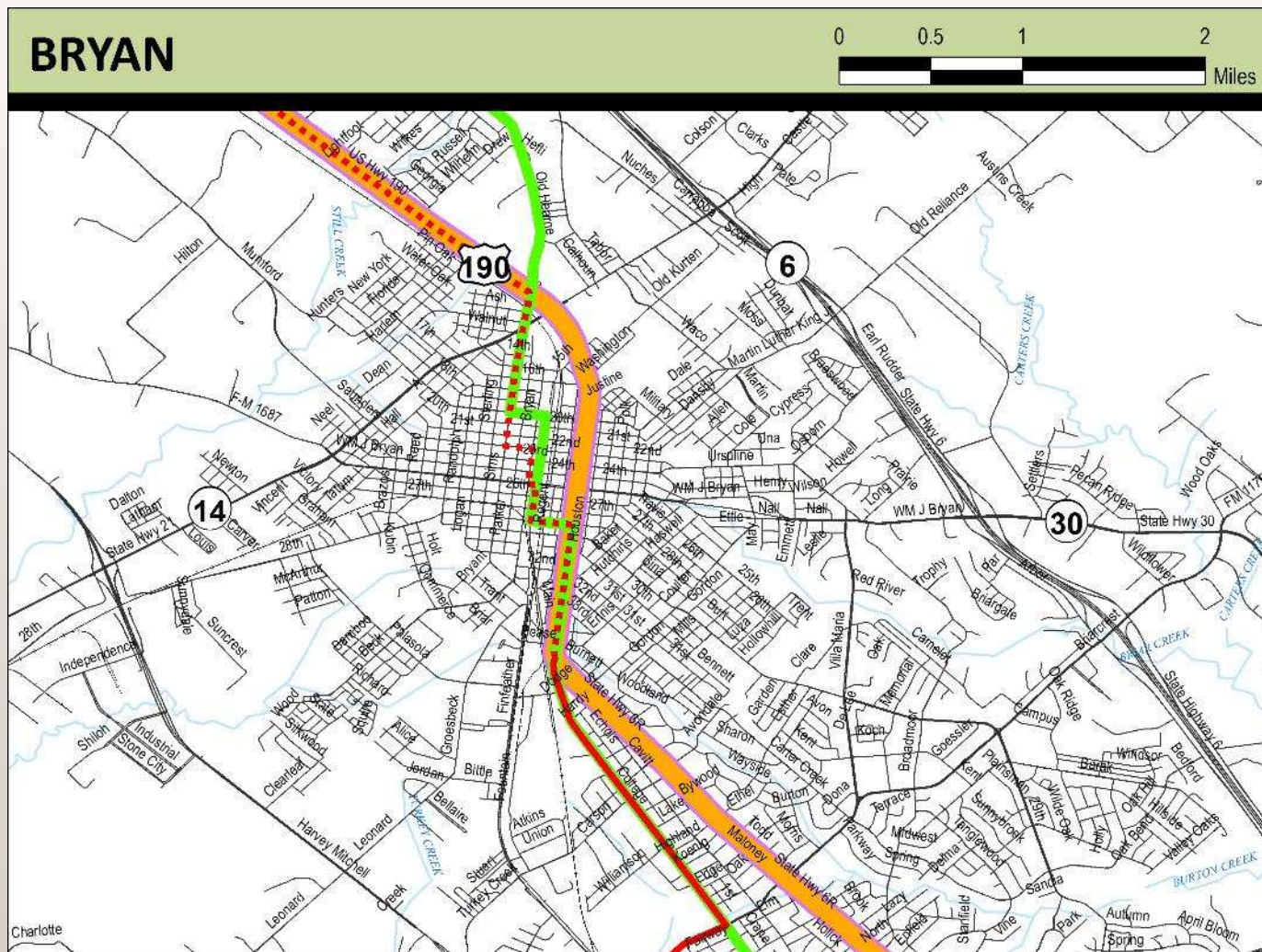


# The Meridian Highway in the Area





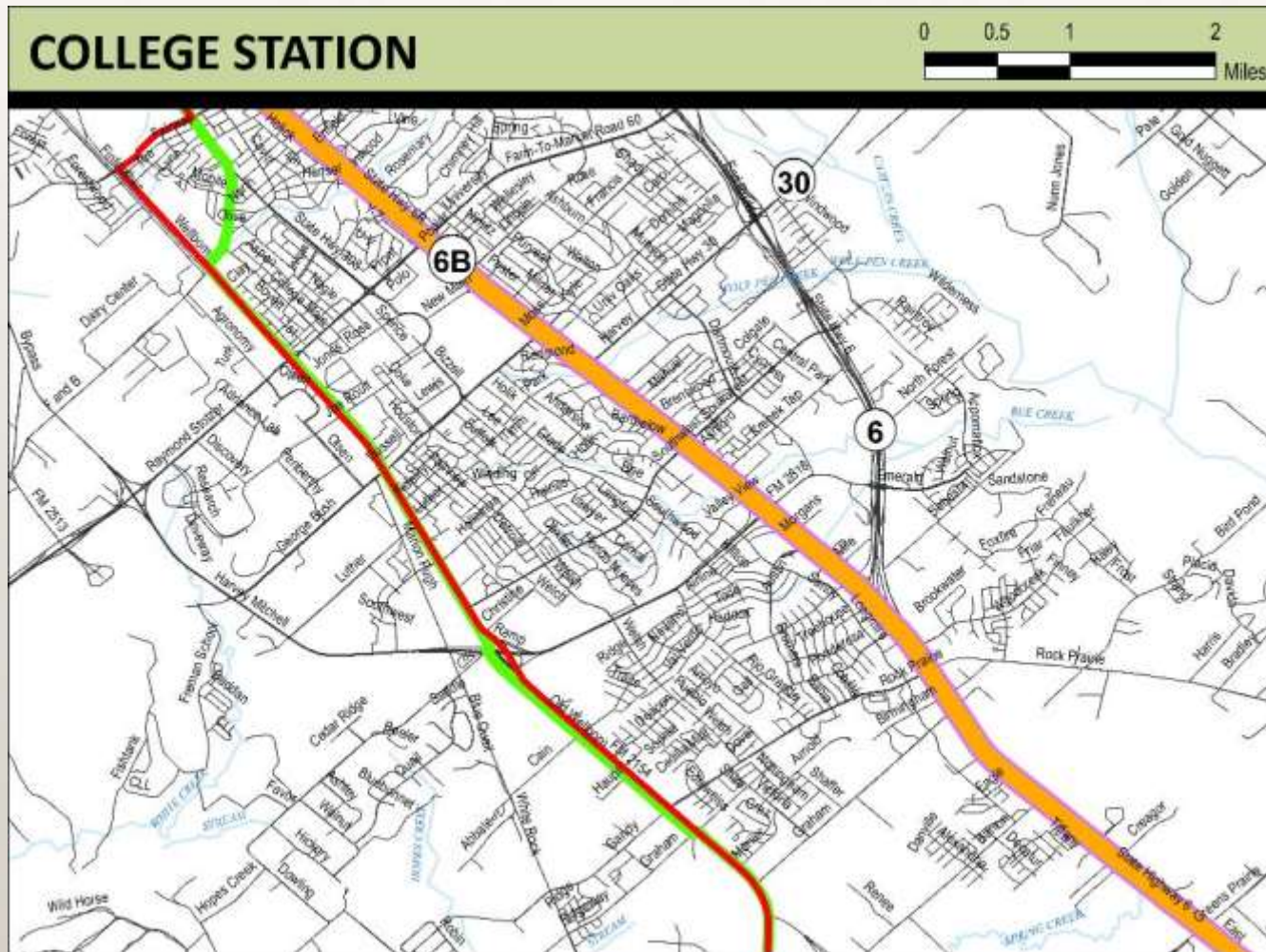
# The Meridian Highway in the Area







# The Meridian Highway in the Area

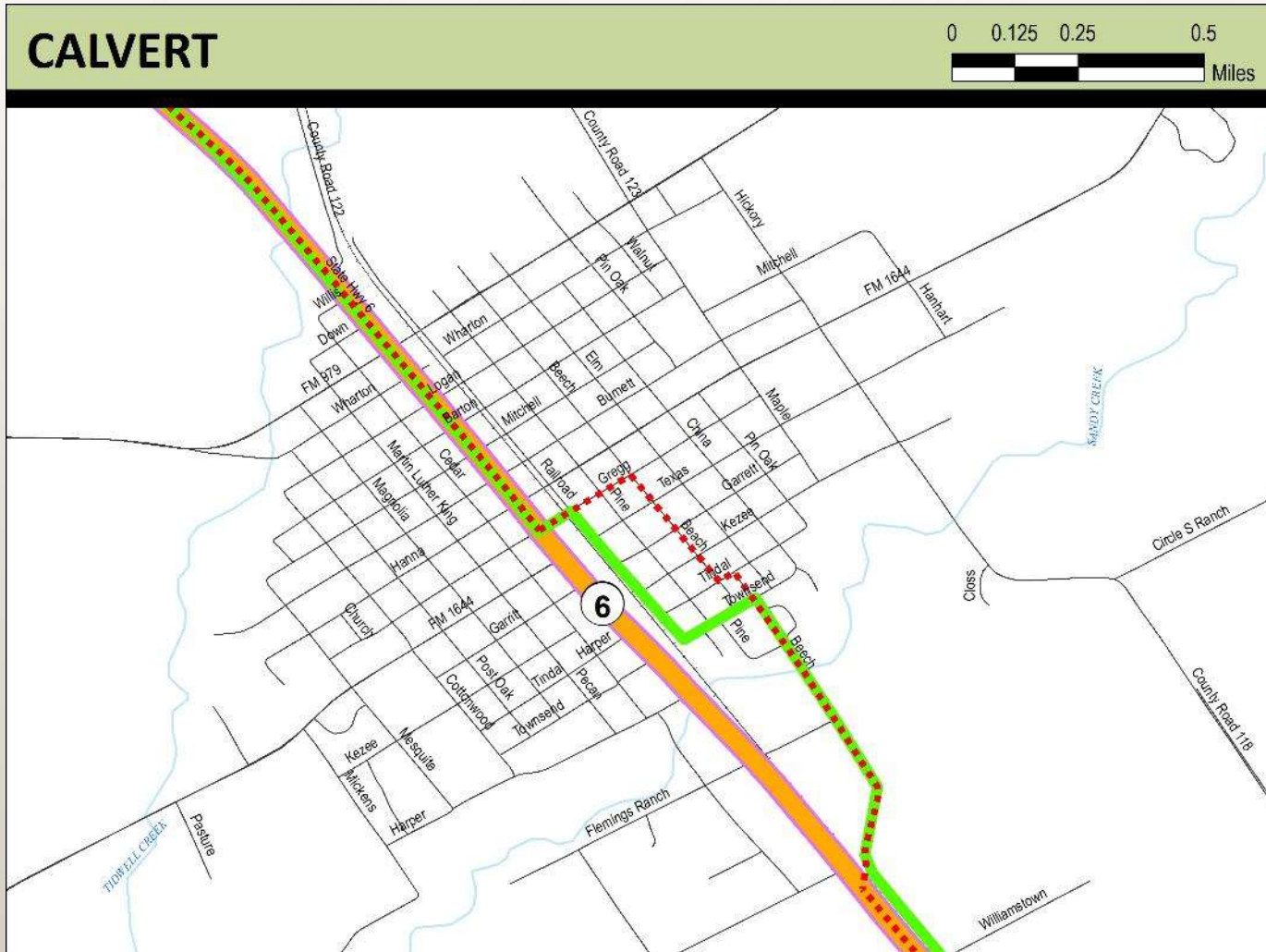






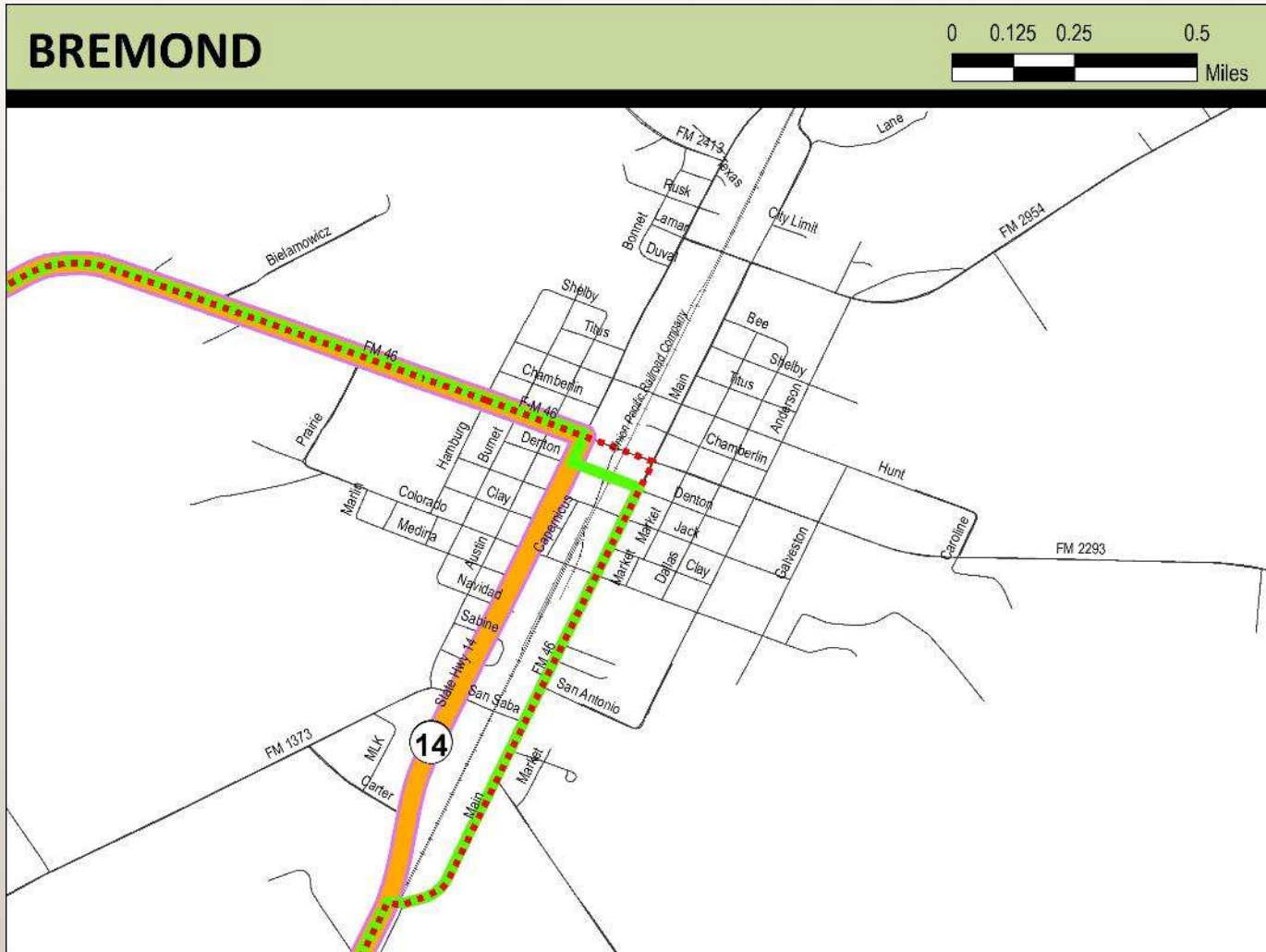


# The Meridian Highway in the Area





# The Meridian Highway in the Area

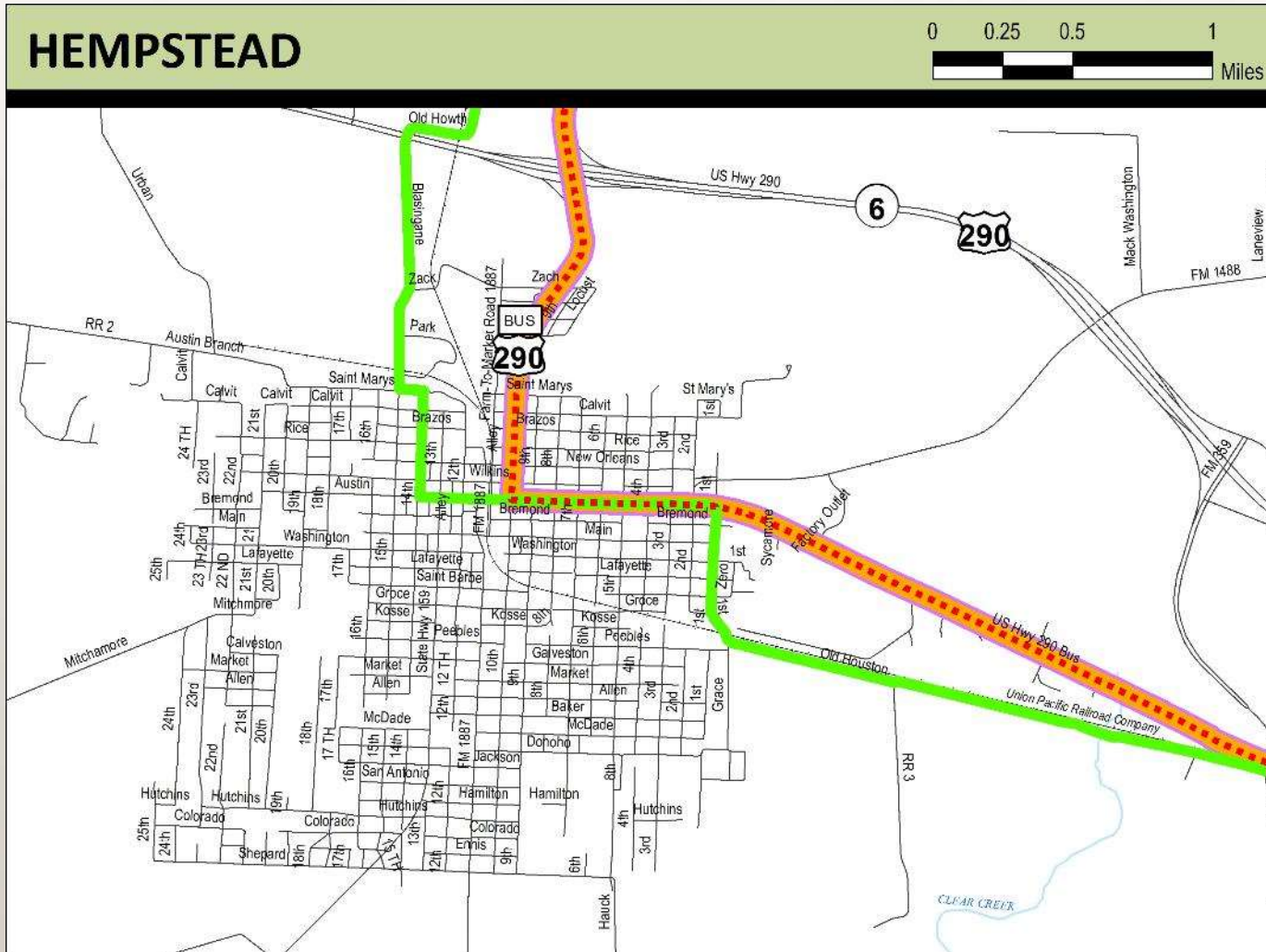








# The Meridian Highway in the Area





# What We Are Doing

## Field Documentation







**HARRY BECK-MOORE INC** Add Content

**Projects**

Active

Project ID	Project Name	Budget	Progress
1000	TUESDAY Morning Series	7	38
1001	TUESDAY Series	10	1200
1002	TUESDAY Series	8	80
1003	TUESDAY Series	88	2000
1004	TUESDAY Series	8	80
1005	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1006	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1007	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1008	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1009	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1010	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1011	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1012	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1013	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1014	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1015	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1016	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1017	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1018	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1019	TUESDAY Series	8	20
1020	TUESDAY Series	8	20

1 of 5





# What We Are Doing

## Field Documentation









# What We are Doing

## Research

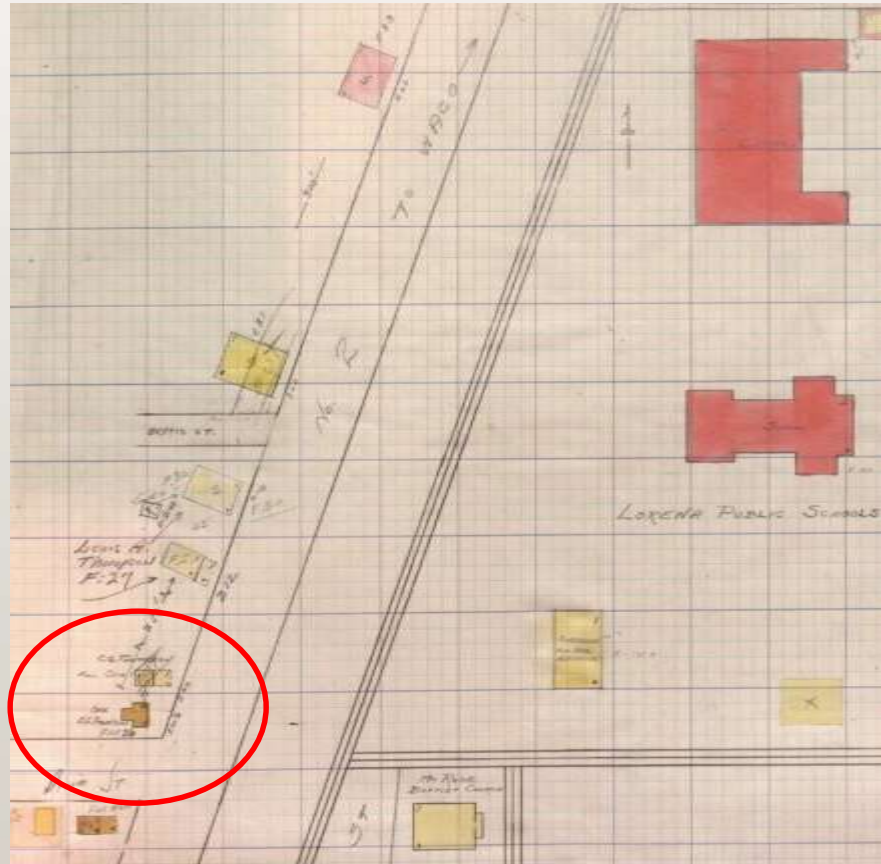


Marlin, Texas



# What We Are Doing

## Research



State Fire Insurance Map – Lorena, Texas. Source: VGCHL



# What We Are Doing

## Research



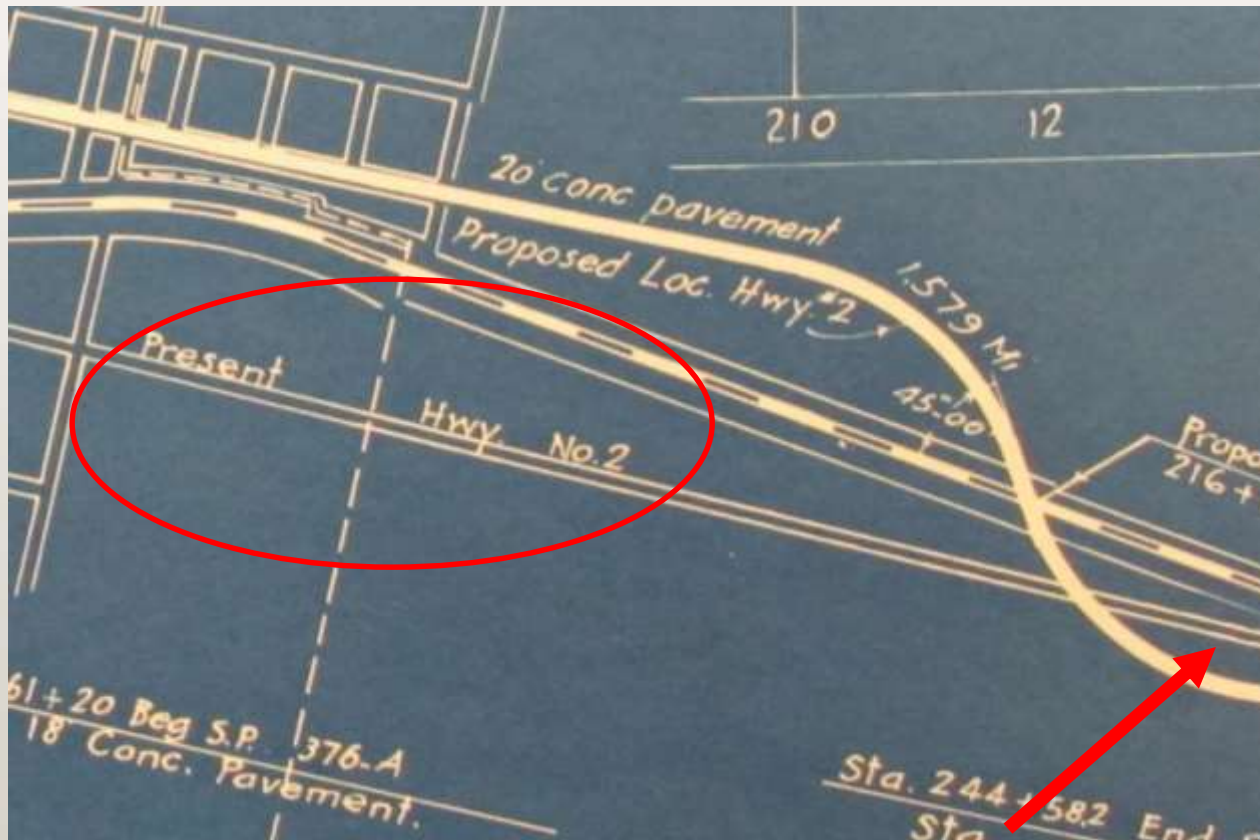
Source: WCC





# What We Are Doing

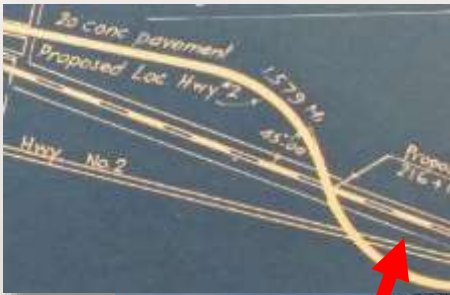
## Research



Source: WCC

# What We Are Doing

## Research



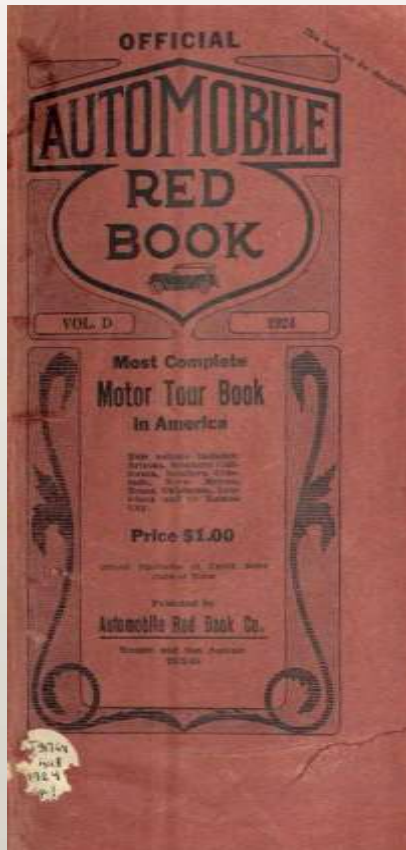
Bowie, Texas





# What We Are Doing

## Research



Wholesalers and Distributors.  
515 Main Avenue  
San Antonio, Tex.  
All Orders Given Prompt Attention.

CROSS CROSSINGS CAREFULLY.

Tourists' Headquarters.  
Camp Equipment.  
EX-HOCKER HARDWARE CO.  
217 Broadway.  
Information—Service.

CITIZENS' GARAGE  
Second Largest Garage in Texas.  
Repairing, Storage, Accessories.  
ANY Service, ANY Time, ANY Price.  
Centrally Located.  
222 East Travis Street  
San Antonio, Tex.  
Phones, Crockett 6000-6283.

CARTER TIRE COMPANY  
Phones, Crockett or Travis 606.  
Comanna and Augusta Streets.  
Distributors Mohawk Tires, Goodrich.  
"Drive-In" Service Station.  
Tubes, Mobiloils.  
FREE Crank Case Service. Accurate Southwest Texas Information.

STAR GARAGE  
Antonio's Most Modern Fire-Proof Storage Garage.  
Opposite St. Mary's Church,  
212 N. St. Mary's Street.  
Washing, Greasing, Re-lining, Accessories.  
Centrally Located. Steam Heat.  
Close to All Hotels, Theatres.  
"Service Is Your Protection."  
Phone Crockett 2262.

Electric street signals are being installed in many cities. Be on the out for them and observe them when you hit old San Antonio, if want something good to eat at a reasonable price, look for this sign on Houston Street.

Camping Space, \$2 per month.  
Plenty of Open Camping Space.  
Cottages, Rates \$3.50 Per Week.

**ROUTE No. 173**  
(STATE HIGHWAY No. 173)  
**San Antonio to Austin**  
82.6 MILES  
(Reverse Route No. 182)  
(Meridian Highway.) Via Braunfels, Hunter, San M. Kyle and Buda. Description: Paved to Hunter, worn-out and paved road through county, balance paved.

0.0 Postoffice, Houston, and Avenue D. Go 1 west on Houston and right into Broadway.  
1.5 Turn right into Grayson at filling station.  
2.0 Fort Sam Houston grounds, left.  
2.4 Turn left into New Braunfels avenue.  
3.2 Turn right.  
3.4 Turn left.  
3.6 Camp Travis Reservation.  
3.8 Turn right.  
5.2 Ahead.  
9.6 Cross R. R.  
16.7 SELMA.  
20.2 Guadalupe-Comal county line.  
22.9 Left and right across R. R.  
23.3 Cross R. R.  
23.5 COMAL. 25.0 Cross R. R.  
27.0 Store on right.  
28.2 Turn left.  
28.5 Turn right.  
30.7 Cross R. R. Depot left.  
31.0 NEW BRAUNFELS. Plaza. Turn right and left around

NOTE.—When you reach Braunfels, stop at the Plaza, turn to the fort part of the T section, where you will find a card write-up and illustration regarding beautiful LANDA PA located in the city.

BAETGE MOTOR SALES  
Overland, Willys-Knight, Studebaker Sales and Service.  
General Repairing, Accessories.

- 1.5 Turn right into Grayson St. at filling station.
- 2.0 Fort Sam Houston grounds, left.
- 2.4 Turn left into New Braunfels avenue.
- 3.2 Turn right.
- 3.4 Turn left.
- 3.6 Camp Travis Reservation.
- 3.8 Turn right.
- 5.2 Ahead.
- 9.6 Cross R. R.
- 16.7 SELMA.
- 20.2 Guadalupe-Comal county line
- 22.9 Left and right across R. R.
- 23.3 Cross R. R.
- 23.5 COMAL. 25.0 Cross R. R.
- 27.0 Store on right.
- 28.2 Turn left.
- 28.5 Turn right.
- 30.7 Cross R. R. Depot left.
- 31.0 NEW BRAUNFELS. Plaza. Turn right and left around

Source: TSLAC





# What We are Doing

## Research

606 (1924) POLK'S MORRISON & FOURMY		
<b>DUTTON AV—Contd</b>	919 Hearne P W (r)	109 Spark Bros filling sta
1608 Mitchell L R (r)	Neill B A (r)	No 2
1610 Harris R F (r)	Fair W T (r)	115 Home Bakery
1612 Mitchell C P (r)	929 Jaques J B (r)	201 Thomsen Co The mfrs
1616 Beheler W L (r)	937 Graham Thos (r)	Dyo shoe polish and
<b>S Seventeenth</b>	<b>Cherry</b>	dyes
<b>S Eighteenth</b>	1000 Vacant	Hed-Tone Co
1815 Johnson E A (r)	1008 Smith Jos (r)	201-3 Brazos Valley
Dawis W L (r)	1011 Evans R B (o)	Garage
1825 Schramm W F (o)	1016 Dozier Henry (o)	Lambeth C L
<b>S Nineteenth</b>	1017 Wright L S (o)	202-10 Independent Shope
<b>S Twentieth</b>	1021 Plath L H (o)	Brick Co
2000 Worsham J E dairy	1025 Verdell G J (o)	203½ Fechner H M
(r)	1026 Herd J D (o)	205 Vacant
2009 Thompson J L (r)	1028 Chapman W L (r)	207 Urban John blksmith
2011 George A L (r)	1029 Lee A C (o)	209 Vacant
2013 McRay J W (r)	1032 Reagan R E (o)	211 Geyer Bros Co auto
2023 Paulsen Fred (r)	1033 Bebee J E (r)	reprs
<b>S Twenty-first</b>	1035 Byford J T (r)	<b>Mann begins</b>
<b>S Twenty-second</b>	1036 McCormick Wm (o)	300 Khoury A & Sons
2228 Jenkins B E dairy (o)	<b>Forrest</b>	grocers
McCollum Lloyd (r)	1105 Thornton E H (r)	302 East Side Cafe
<b>S Twenty-third</b>	1109 Williams Nancy (* o)	304 Natl Monument Wks
2300 Martin F D Dr (r)	1110 Blakely Bennie (* o)	305 Smith Garage
2301 Crow A J (o)	1113 Brown Geo (* r)	306 Saml The Tire Man
<b>S Twenty-fourth</b>	1114 Williams Geo (* o)	306½ Williams W C (r)
2416 Hyde J O (r)		

Source: TCBU



# What We are Doing

## Research

For the information of house-  
wives who wish accurate informa-  
tion on relative costs in planning  
nutritional and at the same time  
delicious meals, the food adminis-  
tration has issued a table showing  
comparative cost and food val-  
ue of fifty foods.

Each is taken as the standard  
for comparison, and the most per-  
cent and the relative cost per  
hundred calories of the other ma-  
terials is shown. The prices given  
are averages of those in 25 places  
throughout the country on August  
1. The table shows that 12 arti-  
cles are cheaper than bread on the  
basis of calories obtained for the  
money, two are of equal value, and  
eight are higher. Corn meal, notwith-  
standing its present high prices,  
ranks to give the most food  
for the money. Broiler  
chickens stand at the foot of the

The experts of the food adminis-  
tration think that an intelligent  
use of this table will help house-  
wives. They point out that it  
is impossible for a family  
to keep in health if it were fed  
solely on the foods in the low-  
est part of the table. Their ad-  
vice is that the housewife continue  
to prepare the usual meal of va-  
riety, and utilize this table as  
a guide in making combinations  
which will save money and at the  
same time be nutritious. For in-  
stance, canned tomatoes, compared  
with bread, are a very expensive  
item. This should not lead to  
the substitution of tomatoes, but

on August 1.

## PLAN HIGHWAY FROM RED RIVER TO BORDER

### First Step Is to Organize Units of the Meridian Road in Texas.

SAN MARCOS, Tex., Sept. 8.—

With the making of a 365-day road  
between the different army posts  
in Texas, the question of military  
transportation is solved, and that's  
why, with the designation of the  
Meridian Road as State Highway  
No. 2, the Texas Highway Depart-  
ment is ready and anxious to aid  
in the campaign just launched to  
give the Meridian Road a hard  
surface from the Red River to the  
Rio Grande and the Gulf. The  
very first consideration is to get  
every unit of the Texas Meridian  
Road Association lined up, and  
started in the good work. It has  
been demonstrated so many times  
in the past that all that is needed  
to put this and like projects of  
state import "over" is to be thor-  
oughly organized.

Government  
describes New  
Treating

IT CAN BE

Gradual Elimination  
ready by a  
Is Not E

Reports that have  
recently been issued by the  
Department of Agriculture  
show the losses from  
the disease during the present  
year or exceed the maximum  
in any previous year.  
If the disease is dis-  
seminated, according  
to the Bureau of Animal  
Industry.

In certain sections  
notably the overfl  
of the south, and  
most destructive  
cattle and horses  
the cattle tick is  
great drawbacks to  
wide areas which  
excellently adapted.

Can Be  
But, like the  
can be controlled



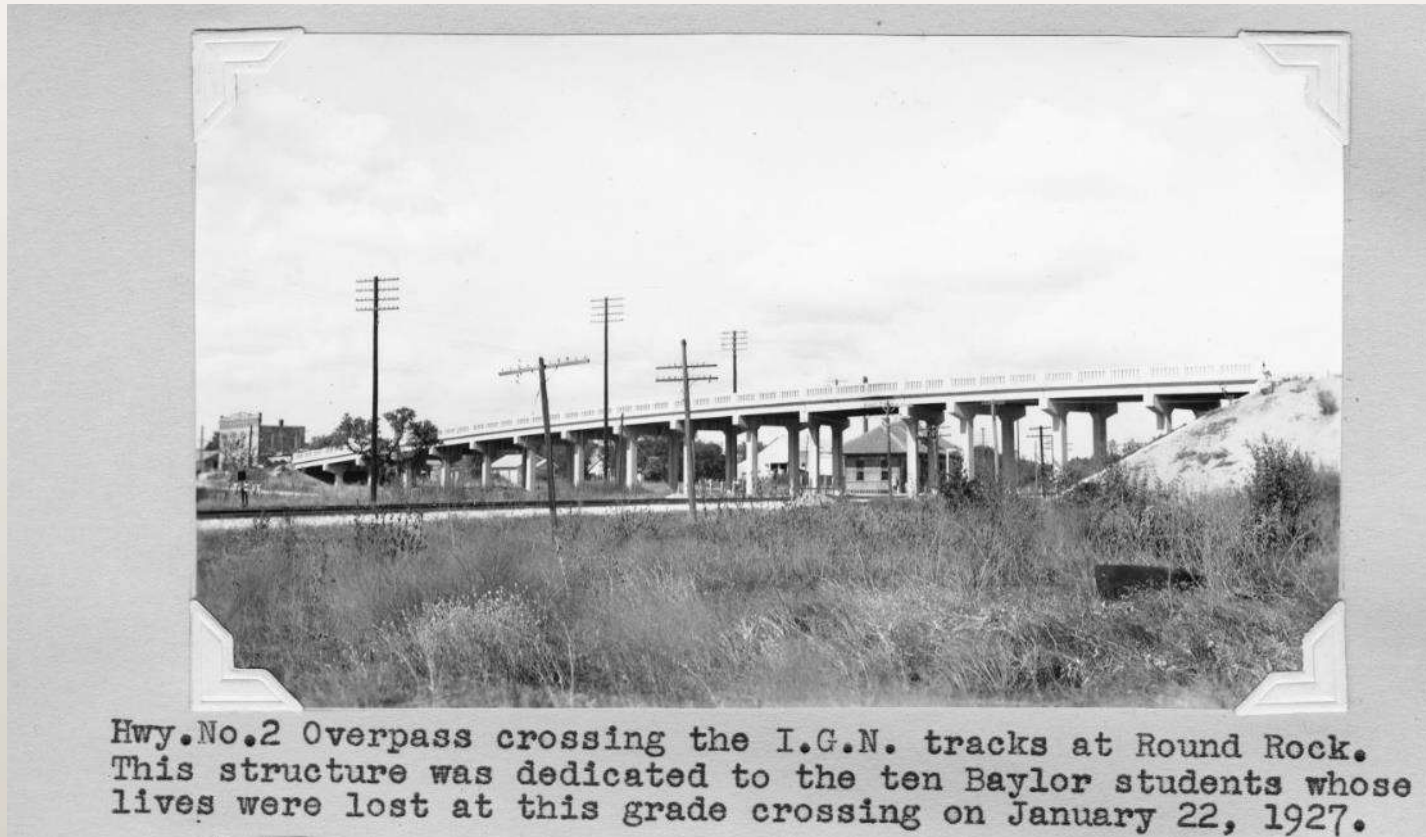






# What We Are Doing

## Research

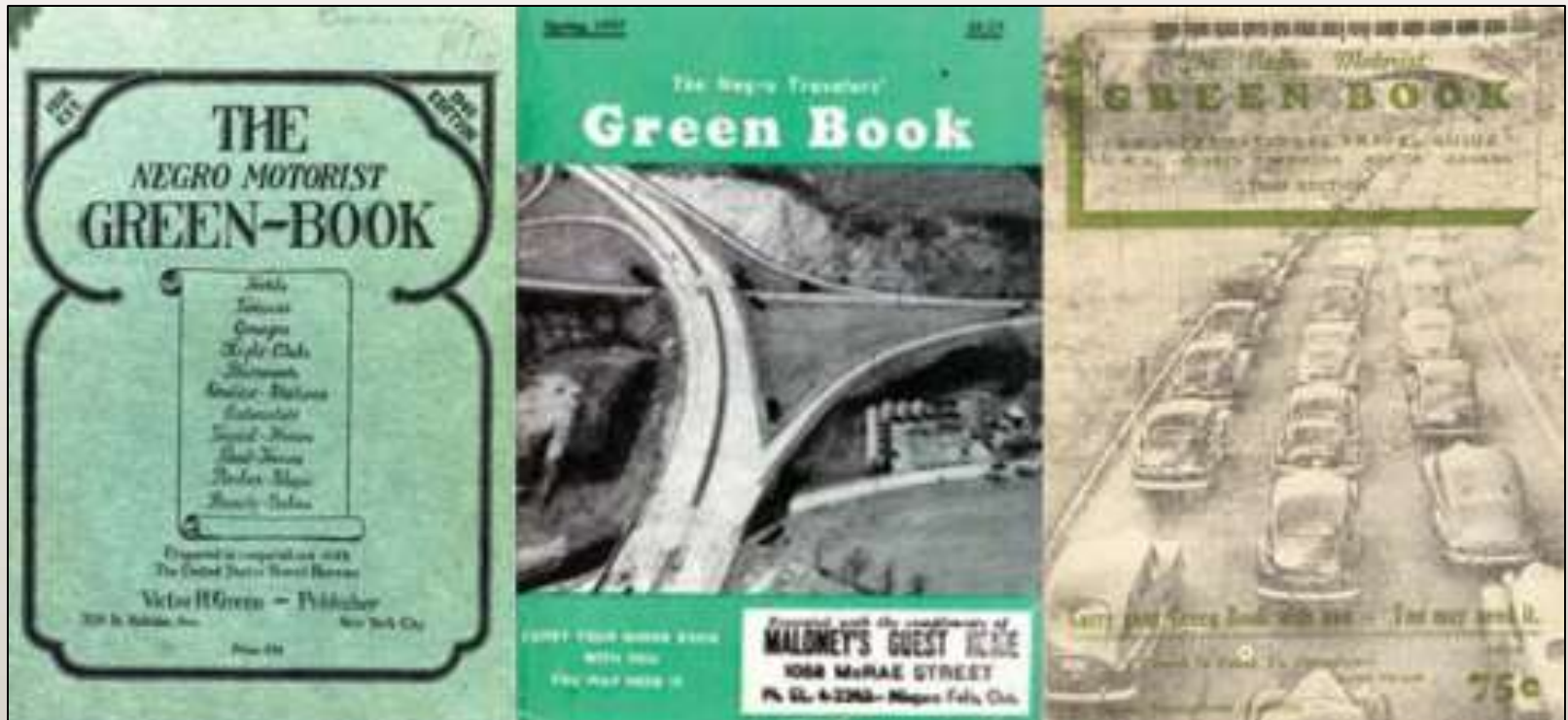


Round Rock, Texas. Source: TxDOT



# What We Are Doing

## Research



Source: thesocietypages.org



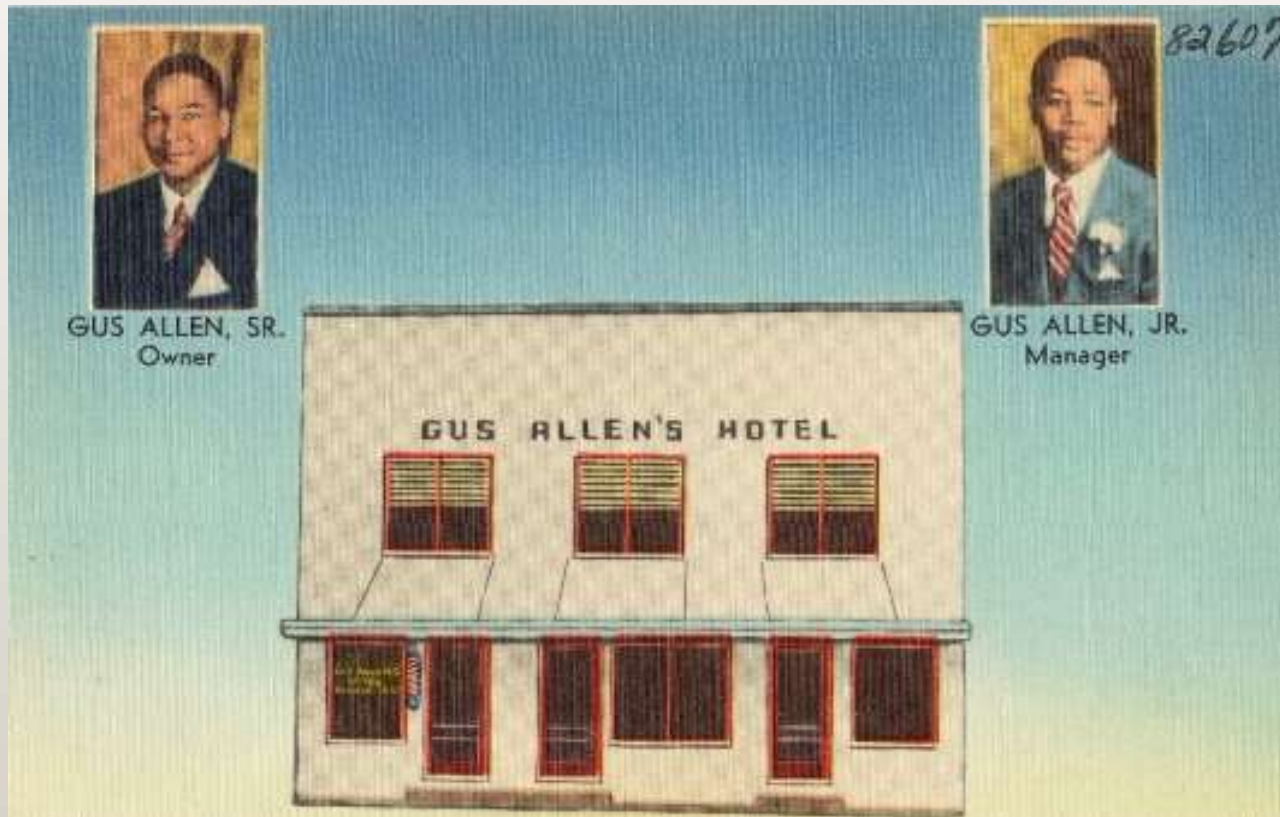
## 73





# What We are Doing

## Research



Galveston, Texas. Source: BoPL



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Mount Vernon, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Decatur, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Albany, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Decatur, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Decatur, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Itasca, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Waco, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Mineral Wells, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Waco, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Eastland, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Bowie, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Abilene, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Fort Worth, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Waco, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources

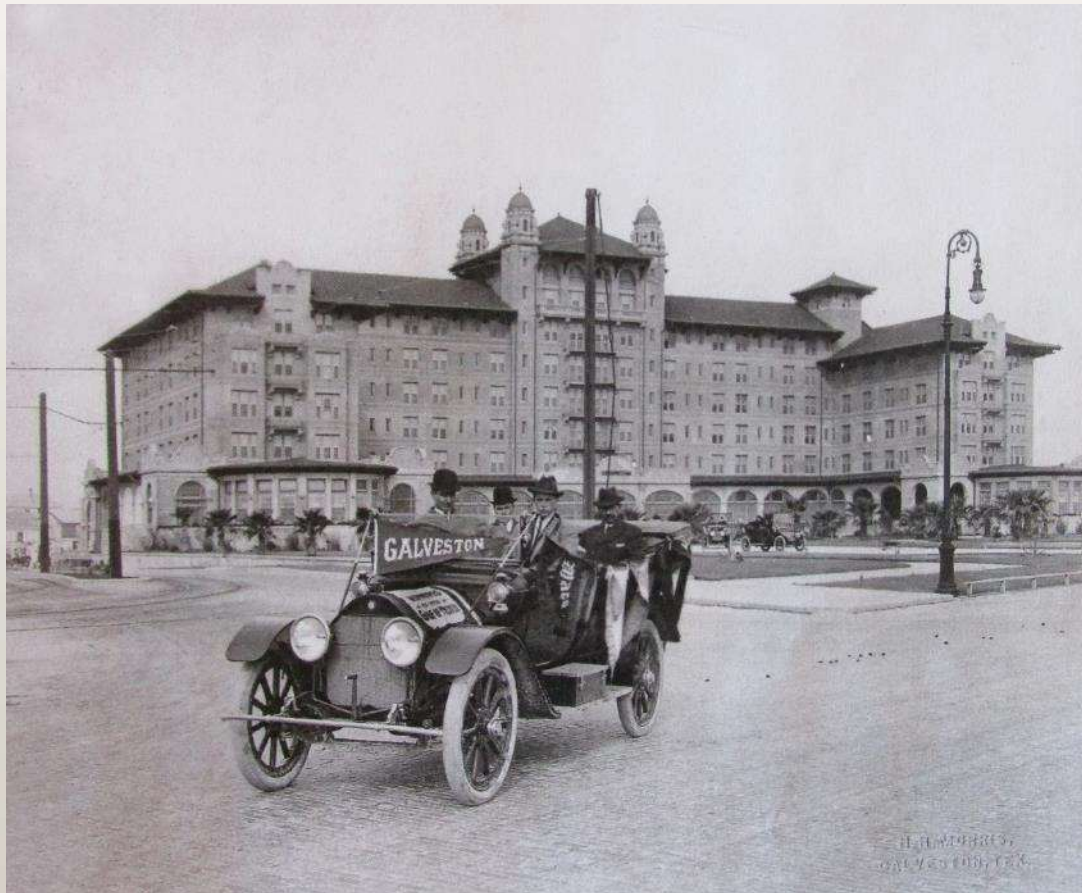


Austin, Texas. Source: TxDOT



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Galveston, Texas. Source: HCM&A



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Marlin, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Taylor, Texas. Source: PTH



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



San Antonio, Texas. Source: Mysanantonio.com



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Hillsboro, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Waco, Texas. Source: TOT



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Laredo, Texas. Source: NARA



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Waco, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Vicinity of Naples, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Lovelace, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Vicinity of Bartlett, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Vicinity of Hillsboro, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Clifton, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Meridian Highway - Clifton, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



North Texas Highway (US 82) - Ringgold, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bankhead Highway - Merkel, Texas



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Taylor, Texas. Source: PTH





# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Vicinity of Eddy, Texas. Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Vicinity of Hillsboro, Texas. Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Vicinity of Hillsboro, Texas





# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Vicinity of Pflugerville, Texas. Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TxDOT





# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Grande Hotel, Waco, Texas  
See the Only Petrified Wood Hotel

Texas Cafe — Petrified Wood  
American and Mexican Dishes

65570

Grande Courts Tourist Apts., Waco, Texas

Ceiling Fans — Sealy Mattresses 65570  
75 Apartments — 75 Baths

Source: BoPL



# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Bryan, Texas. Source: BoPL



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Belton, Texas. Source: LAPL





# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Temple, Texas. Source: BoPL



# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Source: B. J. Hicks, Mount Vernon, Texas









# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Downtown Waco, Texas. Source: TCBU





# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



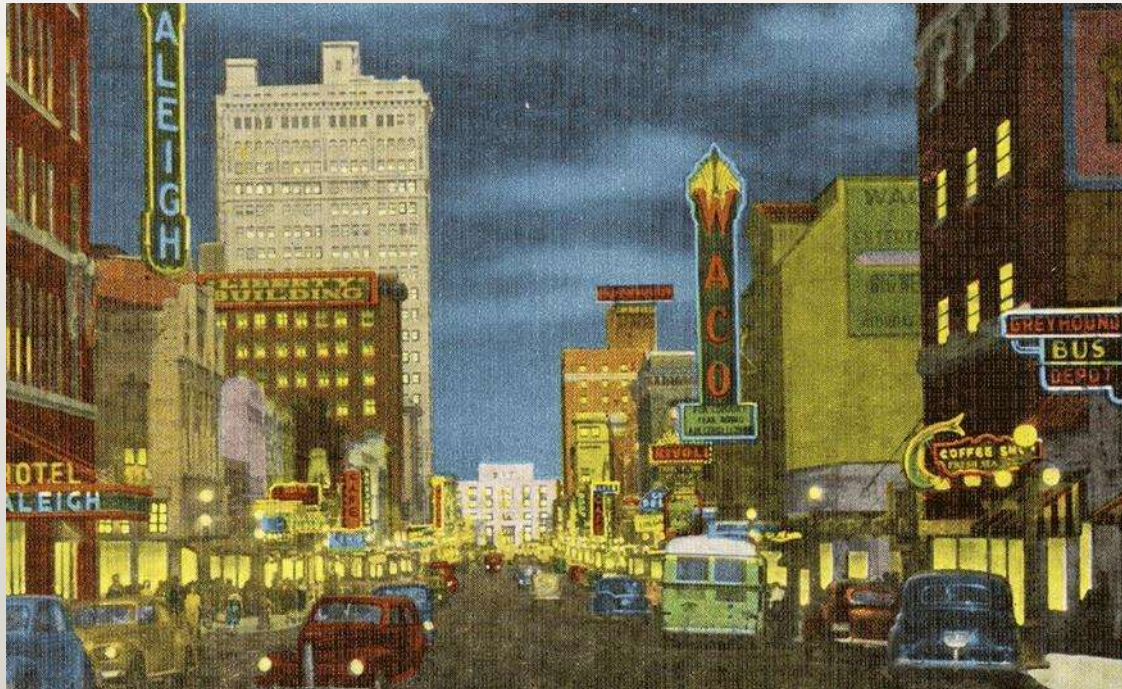
Downtown Waco, Texas. Source: TCBU





# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Downtown Waco, Texas. Source: TCBU



# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Downtown Waco, Texas. Source: TCBU





# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

The screenshot shows the Texas Historical Commission website. The header includes the Texas Historical Commission logo and the tagline "real places telling real stories." Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT US, PRESERVE, PROJECT REVIEW, NEWS & EVENTS, GET INVOLVED, LEARN, and EXPLORE TEXAS. The main content area is titled "Historic Texas Highways" and features a photograph of a dirt road. To the right of the photo is a text block describing the history of highways in Texas. Below the text is a "Show This" button. To the right of the text is a list of links under the heading "In This Section".

**Historic Texas Highways**

Today, the Lone Star State is crisscrossed with a jumbled tangle of high-speed highways and byways. It was not always this way. In the late-1800s and into early 1900s, the traveler had only dirt, gravel, and occasionally paved roadways from which to choose. As automobiles became more popular, the demand for better and safer roads increased, leading to the Good Roads movement. This in turn led to the improvement and expansion of the roadway network across Texas and across the nation. The development of communities was closely linked to transportation, whether waterways, roadways, or railways. As auto travel increased in the 1920s and '30s, towns connected by roads prospered due to the ability to sell and trade goods, and by providing places for travelers to stop for food, lodging, and vehicle care.

A rich architectural legacy from this early time period still remains along these early roadways, including gas stations, motels and hotels, diners and cafes, auto dealerships and repair shops, parks, signage, bridges, and tourist attractions. To learn and see more about these resources, please explore our various highway

**In This Section**

- [Bankhead Highway](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)
- [East Texas Highway](#)
- [Meridian Highway](#)
- [North Texas Highway](#)
- [Old Spanish Trail](#)
- [Route 66](#)
- [Sidebar Interests](#)
- [Publications for Roadside Architecture](#)





# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway). The page features a red header with the Texas Historical Commission logo and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT US, PRESERVE, PROJECT REVIEW, NEWS & EVENTS, GET INVOLVED, LEARN, and EXPLORE TEXAS. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Preserve > Projects and Programs > Historic Texas Highways > Meridian Highway. The main content area is titled "Meridian Highway" and includes a map of Texas showing the highway route. The text describes the highway's history and the current project to document its history. A sidebar on the right lists links to other highway projects and resources.

**Meridian Highway**

The Meridian Highway historically has been the major north-south named highway in Texas since the early 1910s. As originally conceived by the International Meridian Association in 1911, it stretched from Canada to Mexico, extending through the nation's mid-section and the expansive Great Plains region. Its path cross approximately 800 miles of Texas, passing through Burkburnett, Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Cleburne, Waco, Taylor, Georgetown, Austin, New Braunfels, San Antonio, Cotulla, Laredo, Bryan, Hempstead, Houston, and Galveston, among other communities, and roughly followed IH-35W with a major lateral from Waco to Galveston following SH6/US 290.

The Texas Historical Commission is undertaking a two-year study to document the history of the Meridian Highway. The project will result in a written history of the Texas section of the Meridian Highway and a survey of the Texas Meridian route, including associated historic resources: auto repair garages, gas stations, diners, tourist camps, auto courts, motels, road markers, paving, and traffic signs. This effort is funded by the Texas Legislature and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

**In This Section**

- [Bankhead Highway](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)
- [East Texas Highway](#)
- [Meridian Highway](#)
  - [Meridian Highway History](#)
  - [Meridian Highway FAQs](#)
  - [THC Release Form](#)
- [North Texas Highway](#)
- [Old Spanish Trail](#)
- [Route 66](#)
- [Sidebar Interests](#)



# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Texas Historical Commission's website. The page is titled "Meridian Highway FAQs" and is part of a series of pages on the topic. The header includes the Texas Historical Commission logo and a search bar. The main navigation menu is located at the top, with links to HOME, ABOUT US, PRESERVE, PROJECT REVIEW, NEWS & EVENTS, GET INVOLVED, LEARN, and EXPLORE TEXAS. The breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: Home > Preserve > Projects and Programs > Historic Texas Highways > Meridian Highway > Meridian Highway FAQs. The main content area is titled "Meridian Highway FAQs" and includes a section for "General Inquiries" with links to various questions and answers. A sidebar on the right titled "In This Section" provides a list of links to other related content.

Meridian Highway FAQs | — ×

www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway/meridian-highway-faqs

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
real places telling real stories

HOME · ABOUT US · PRESERVE · PROJECT REVIEW · NEWS & EVENTS · GET INVOLVED · LEARN · EXPLORE TEXAS

Home > Preserve > Projects and Programs > Historic Texas Highways > Meridian Highway > Meridian Highway FAQs

### Meridian Highway FAQs

#### General Inquiries

- [What is the Meridian Highway project?](#)
- [Who is funding the Meridian Highway Project?](#)
- [Where does the Meridian Highway run across Texas?](#)
- [When was the Meridian Highway built?](#)
- [What types of historic resources are associated with the Meridian Highway?](#)
- [Who is doing the survey work?](#)
- [When will the field survey work be conducted?](#)
- [When will the Meridian Highway project be completed?](#)

#### Public Outreach

- [When and where will the public outreach meetings be held?](#)
- [What is the purpose of the public outreach meetings?](#)
- [How can I get ongoing Meridian Highway project information?](#)

#### In This Section

- [Bankhead Highway](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)
- [East Texas Highway](#)
- [Meridian Highway](#)
  - [Meridian Highway History](#)
  - [Meridian Highway FAQs](#)
  - [THC Release Form](#)
- [North Texas Highway](#)
- [Old Spanish Trail](#)
- [Route 66](#)
- [Sidebar Interests](#)



# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

Explore the Bankhead High... x +

www.thc.state.tx.us/historic-highways/bankhead-highway/explore-bankhead-highway

Meridian Highway Facebook

! TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
real places telling real stories

HOME ABOUT US PRESERVE PROJECT REVIEW NEWS & EVENTS GET INVOLVED LEARN EXPLORE TEXAS

Home > ... > Historic Highways > Bankhead Highway > Explore the Bankhead Highway

### Explore the Bankhead Highway

Sort according to: Direction City County Decade

Fast to West -- All Cities -- -- All Counties -- -- All Decades

ShareThis

#### In This Section

- [Bankhead Highway](#)
  - Explore the Bankhead Highway
  - [Bankhead Highway History](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway Maps](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway FAQs](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway Survey](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway Project Information](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway News & Links](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)





# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

Sort according to:

Show me places in a specific:

Direction

East to West

City

All Cities

County

All Counties

Decade

All Decades

GO

<a href="#">Auto Parts Store, 102 7th St, Texasians</a>	<a href="#">Gas Station, 412 W 3rd St, Texasians</a>	<a href="#">Gas Station, 404 W 7th St, Texasians</a>	<a href="#">Bridge-Cross Culvert, W 7th St, Texasians</a>
<a href="#">Grade Separation (Over/Under Pass), W 7th St, Texasians</a>	<a href="#">Motel/Tourist Court, 1402 W 7th St, Texasians</a>	<a href="#">Roadside Segment, Page St, Redwater</a>	<a href="#">Bridge, CR 1235, Redwater</a>
<a href="#">Culvert, Page St, Redwater</a>	<a href="#">Bridge-Cross Culvert, Page St, Redwater</a>	<a href="#">Culvert, Page St, Redwater</a>	<a href="#">Cemetary Marker, US 67, Redwater</a>
<a href="#">Gas Station, 412 Broadway Ave, Maat</a>	<a href="#">Gas Station, 411 Broadway Ave, Maat</a>	<a href="#">Bridge, CR 2458, Douglasville</a>	<a href="#">Roadside Segment, CR 2458, Douglasville</a>
<a href="#">Roadside Park/Turnout, US 67, Simms</a>	<a href="#">Bridge, US 67, Naples</a>	<a href="#">Bridge, US 67, Naples</a>	<a href="#">Bridge, US 67, Naples</a>

Information

- [Bankhead Highway News & Links](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)
- [East Texas Highway](#)
- [Meridian Highway](#)
- [North Texas Highway](#)
- [Old Spanish Trail](#)
- [Route 66](#)
- [Sidebar Interests](#)
- [Publications for Roadside Architecture](#)

Other Ways to Explore the Bankhead Highway

To see all of the historical sites surveyed along the Bankhead, not just the National Register Listed, National Register Eligible, and Contributing to a District sites, click on the link below.

[Download a Google Earth file and take a virtual trip down the Bankhead Highway » \(Open with free Google Earth download\)](#)

The Medallion Articles

- [On the Road to Progress](#)
- [Historical Highway](#)

From the THC Blog

- [Hitting the Roads](#)
- [Heavy Metal](#)



# How You Can Participate

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*real places telling real stories*

## QUESTIONNAIRE: HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE MERIDIAN HIGHWAY

Project contact: Leslie Wolfender, 512.463.3386, [leslie.wolfender@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:leslie.wolfender@thc.state.tx.us)

### Participant Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Activities along the Meridian Highway

Do you, your family, or friends travel on the Meridian Highway? If so, when, how often and for what reason?

Did new businesses open when the highway was built? If so, what kind of businesses were they and when were they in use?

Did the Highway pass through the downtown area? If so, did any events take place on the downtown section of the highway, and what were they...fairs, parades, community celebrations?

What impact did paving the highway have on local business and movement from town to town? Did tourism increase?

What happened to businesses in your community when the interstate was built?



GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR • GILBERT E. "PETE" PETERSON, III, CHAIR • MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78711-0276 • P 512.463.6100 • F 512.475.4872 • TDD 1.800.735.2988 • [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*real places telling real stories*

### Buildings and Structures along the Meridian Highway

Do you remember any buildings or places that highway travelers used, such as tourist camps, tourist courts, motels, gas stations, repair garages? If so, what are where were they, and when were they used? Do they still exist?

Do you remember any old bridges, parks or rest areas built along or near the highway? If so, where were they and do they still exist? When were they built and when did people stop using them?

Are there any old sections of road that are no longer used? If so, where are they?

### Historical Information

Do you have any photographs, postcards or written materials showing places on or near the Bankhead? Are you willing to have them scanned or photographed for use in this project?

Do you know anyone else who might have materials to share? If so, please provide contact information.

☐ I have photos, post cards or other materials to share with the project but did not bring them to this meeting. The survey crew will contact you to arrange an opportunity for you to share your materials. Please complete the section at the top of the Questionnaire so you can be contacted.

### Project Feedback

Please record any comments you have on this meeting, or the project.

Thank you for your participation.



GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR • GILBERT E. "PETE" PETERSON, III, CHAIR • MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78711-0276 • P 512.463.6100 • F 512.475.4872 • TDD 1.800.735.2988 • [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)



# How You Can Participate

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

*real places telling real stories*

### RELEASE AND WAIVER

In consideration of the Texas Historical Commission (Commission) copying, archiving and possibly publishing certain archival material listed below, \_\_\_\_\_,

hereinafter described as Owner, hereby provides this **RELEASE AND WAIVER** to the Commission.

Owner freely and without promise of payment offers the archival material to the Commission for its use in documenting the history of Texas. Owner represents to the Commission that Owner has all rights of publication and title to the archival material and that the archival material is not subject to a claim of copyright protection by a third party, known or unknown.

In full consideration of the above intended use of the archival material and in full consideration of the fact that I am willingly and voluntarily offering the archival material to the Commission, and with my full understanding of all of the above, I hereby waive, release, remise and discharge the Commission and its agents, officers, principals and employees of any and all liability, claims, demands, actions or rights of action, or damages of any kind related to, arising from, or in any way connected with, my offer of the archival material, including those allegedly attributed to the negligent acts or omissions of the above mentioned parties.

This agreement shall be binding upon me, my successors, representatives, heirs, executors, assigns, or transferees. If any portion of this agreement is held invalid, I agree that the remainder of the agreement shall remain in full legal force and effect.

I understand that the offer of the archival material does not obligate the Commission to copy, archive or publish the archival material. Any further use of the archival material is strictly at the discretion of the Commission.

Owner understands that without the provision of this RELEASE AND WAIVER, Owners would not consider its option to copy, archive or publish the archival material.

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## Sources

- Boston Public Library
- Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin
- Federal Highway Administration
- Google Books
- Harvey County Museum & Archives
- John Asa Rountree Manuscripts, Birmingham Public Library
- Kansas Historical Society
- Lena Armstrong Public Library, Belton



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- Library of Congress
- Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives
- National Archives and Records Administration
- Perry-Castañeda Library, University of Texas at Austin
- Pikes Peak Library District
- Texas Collection, Baylor University
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Historical Commission





## Sources

- Texas State Library and Archive Commission
- The Henry Ford
- The Portal to Texas History
- The Witliff Collection at Texas State University
- Traces of Texas
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Virginia Garret Cartographic History Library, University of Texas Arlington
- Wise County Clerk, Wise County Courthouse



**Questions?**

**....and Safe Travels!**



Source: TCBU